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Netanyahu dismisses Mordechai

Arens slated for defense

By DAVID ZEV HARRIS

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu last night fired Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai, accusing him of putting his own ambitions ahead of the interests of party, government and state.

"No man's personal interests can stand above the principles for which he was elected," said Netanyahu. "Any man who betrays the principles of those who voted for him is unfit to be among our ranks... and so our ways must separate. Therefore you can no longer serve as defense minister in a Likud government."

The sacking takes effect in 48 hours or at 8 p.m. tomorrow, Netanyahu has asked Moshe Arens, a former defense minister, to take over from Mordechai.

Arens has reacted positively, according to Netanyahu, but promised a decision only after a party primary being held tomorrow to choose a candidate for prime minister. Arens is the only

Friday, Mordechai was meeting Shahak and Milo in a Tel Aviv cafe, discussing his future as leader of a united center party. The meeting ended with a decision that Mordechai would head the center party's Knesset list, Israel Radio reported.

In his letter to Mordechai, Netanyahu accused him of flouting with leaders of other parties, while attempting to receive guarantees of continuing as defense minister with the Likud.

"Your personal ambition is stronger than any other consideration," wrote Netanyahu. "As someone chosen for the Knesset by Likud voters and appointed as defense minister by the prime minister who is Likud's leader, you held negotiations with opposition elements, whose aim is to overthrow the Likud government. You did this in order to guarantee your reign as defense minister on behalf of these elements. At the same time, you approached me both directly and via messengers in an attempt to receive a written guarantee that your place as defense minister would be reserved in a government led by myself."

Netanyahu added: "I can't reserve any job at all for a person who betrays the principles of the government."

In response, Mordechai denied that he ever asked Netanyahu to guarantee him the defense job. A senior Likud source last night said Mordechai had made plain during a meeting yesterday afternoon that at no time had he asked for any guarantees from Netanyahu, but that it was in fact Netanyahu who had made the offer to him.

Netanyahu announced his decision about Mordechai at a meeting of party activists in Kfar Maccabiah, just after 8 p.m. Mordechai received the letter at a minute to eight and issued his response within minutes.

Speaking to reporters last night, Mordechai would not confirm that he is moving to the center party but sources there said agreement is imminent.

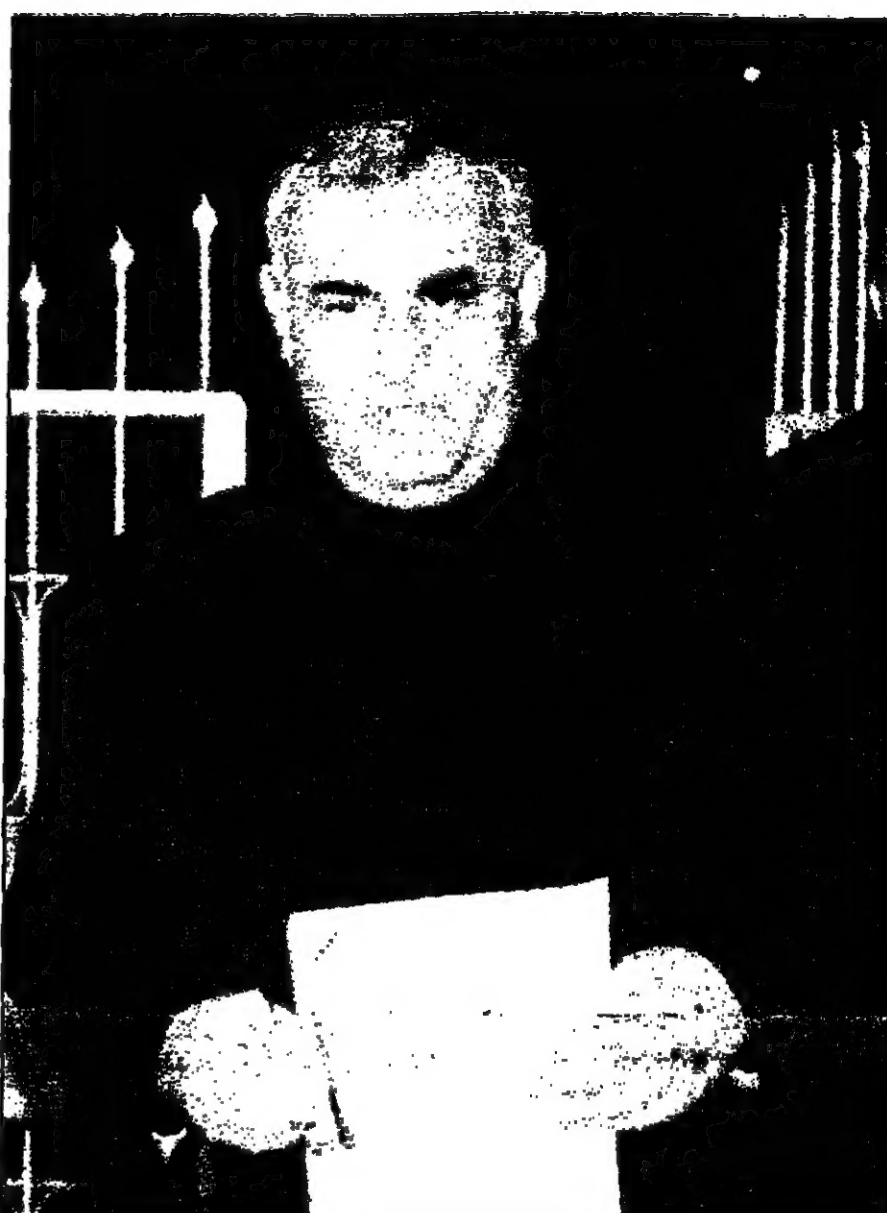
Milo said "Mordechai is capable of leading not only the center party, but also the whole State of Israel."

On Thursday, a survey was conducted to see who, among Shahak, Meridor and Mordechai would perform best in the race for prime minister. The results pointed to Shahak outperforming the others in the first round of voting but that in the likely event of a second round, Mordechai would prove to be the leading candidate from the Center.

Both Shahak and Milo have said they will back Mordechai in the no.1 slot if that will mean a greater chance of victory. Meridor, while more reticent, has also indicated he would support such a move.



Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu puts on his reading glasses at the press conference in Tel Aviv last night, at which he announced the dismissal of Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai (AP)



An angry Yitzhak Mordechai comes out of his home in Motza to make a statement last night after he was fired (AP)

Defense Ministry fears paralysis, Page 2

Netanyahu said he would not fire Arens, except to say he was "disappointed" by Mordechai's move and dismissal, and that he was in the middle of a primary campaign and until the votes are counted and we find out what the results are, I'm not going to make any comments," Arens told The Jerusalem Post.

In an emotional response Mordechai accused Netanyahu of lying about him and described him as unfit to be prime minister.

"Tonight Mr. Netanyahu sent me a letter full of lies, slurs and inaccuracies, which bent a petty politician," said Mordechai. "The prime minister no longer deserves any personal faith and, I guess, that of the people of Israel."

In an indirect reference to the failure to implement the Wye accords, Mordechai said: "Netanyahu is 'changing' to endanger everything we have achieved for his personal needs... and I intend pursuing, along with my partners, to establish an alternative leadership."

Netanyahu made his decision after it became clear that Mordechai would be leaving Likud for the center party, where he would join forces with Amnon Lipkin-Shahak, Dan Meridor and Ronni Milo.

On Friday, Mordechai failed to register as a candidate with the Likud central committee for its vote to set the party's candidate for the May 17 Knesset election. As the 1 p.m. deadline passed

See MORDECHAI, Page 2

You can't have your cake and eat it, too

Had Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu not fired his defense minister last night, it would have been a great surprise. Had Netanyahu kept Yitzhak Mordechai on for even a few days more, he would have demonstrated incredible weakness and would have made a laughing stock of himself.

Mordechai was bound to toe Netanyahu's line, but when a central minister negotiates with the opposition behind his prime minister's back, he cannot expect to remain in office, — to have his cake and eat it, too.

No one was surprised, not even Mordechai, although Mordechai would have preferred to be the one handing Netanyahu the divorce papers. He did not enjoy the tongue-lashing in front of the entire Likud leadership and the TV cameras. It was not pleasant but unexpected.

For nearly three years, Netanyahu handled his super-sensitive defense minister with kid gloves; yesterday he finally took them off. He also took the offensive and the initiative.

He made Mordechai only the second minister ever to be fired (preceded by Shimon Peres, who was dismissed in 1990 by Yitzhak Shamir) and openly marked Mordechai as an opportunist, whose sole concern was securing the defense portfolio.

The blow to his image hurt Mordechai. For Mordechai, like David Levy, personal prestige is paramount and he does not take slight lightly. Perhaps this is why his voice shook so when he read his response.

He had help drafting it. When he got Netanyahu's letter of dismissal, he had been hosting the centrist trio — Amnon Lipkin-Shahak, Dan Meridor and Ronni Milo — in his home for another caucus. Also present was publicist Eyal Arad.

But Mordechai will have a difficult time refuting Netanyahu's accusation. Even those who conferred with him yesterday did not hide the fact that in recent days their talks with Mordechai revolved around guaranteeing him the defense portfolio in whatever sort of a coalition their

BACKGROUND

By SARAH HONIC

party entered, as well as letting him have the party's top slot.

Moreover, for weeks now, Mordechai and his spokesmen have not bothered to deny numerous reports that he demanded the defense portfolio from Netanyahu again, even in a future national unity coalition.

Prior to the 1996 elections, Mordechai crowed openly about having been promised the defense portfolio. He never denied asking for it and he never denied that he asked then Labor chairman Peres for the same portfolio, prior to trying his luck in the Likud. Peres did not say yes and so Mordechai went after a better offer.

This is precisely what happened this time: Netanyahu did not say yes, so Mordechai went after the better offer yet again.

Mordechai's sacking now leaves him in the center party, but in a weaker position because he has lost his Likud alternative. Meridor, miffed by the deal that lets Mordechai have the prime ministerial candidacy, could squawk.

But in all, none of the centrists have many choices left. The center party was, in effect, born yesterday. Netanyahu did more than just dismiss his defense minister last night. For once, he did not leave a vacuum. Moshe Arens's appointment (after his consent is secured) is a wise move from Netanyahu's political vantage point. Perhaps if he had Arens in his cabinet from the outset, things would have turned out quite differently for him.

But for now, Arens is a perfect choice. His mild manner and professional image make him extremely appealing to the moderate hawks and floating voters. To them he is the elder statesman, who has twice before been defense minister (under Menachem Begin and Shimon Peres) and who would allow them to sleep

peacefully at night.

On the other hand, Arens is considerably more hawkish than Netanyahu and opposes the Wye Memorandum, which makes him appealing to the Right, whose support Netanyahu must win as well.

Arens's views mesh well with the policy to suspend Wye, and so Netanyahu can introduce greater internal harmony to his government.

He will also cement his leadership in the Likud. Arens will go through with his primary challenge to Netanyahu, and the new appointment might even bolster his standing. Significantly, Arens from the outset refrained from attacking Netanyahu, and vowed to support him if he wins tomorrow's primary. Thus it would be no problem for him to accept the defense portfolio.

Arens can always point to the Labor precedent in which despite repeated vicious leadership showdowns — not gentlemanly ones like the Arens-Netanyahu bout — Peres served in the late Yitzhak Rabin's government.

Clinton team slams Lewinsky

By RILEY KIFFLER

WASHINGTON — White House counsel Charles Ruff yesterday backed House prosecutors' legal efforts to compel Monica Lewinsky to meet with dependent Counsel Kenneth A.

Federal judge Norma Holloway Johnson ruled yesterday that Lewinsky must submit to interviews with Starr, with House managers allowed to attend, but also ruled that House prosecution managers could not force Lewinsky to meet with them alone.

The decision does not mean that

Lewinsky will testify at President Clinton's Senate impeachment trial, since the Senate is not to decide until tomorrow whether any witnesses must testify in closed deposition or court.

But the development is expected to shatter the bipartisanship

Man remanded for seriously

By NEDI J. GLEIT

Brina, who is suspected of severely beating his four-week-old son, was remanded last night at Tel

Aviv Magistrate's Court until Thursday and ordered to undergo a psychiatric evaluation.

Brina, 35, of Kiryat Ono, was arrested early yesterday morning after he and his wife brought the infant to the emergency room at Tel Hashomer's Sheba Hospital, with a serious head wound in addition to injuries on the rest of his body.

The infant was still in serious condition last night.

"There is a most grave suspicion

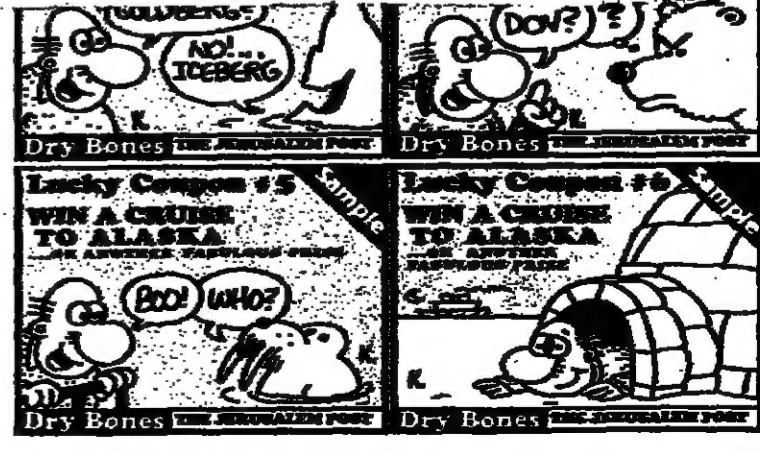
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Haifa Laborites may shun primaries

By DAVID ZEY HARRIS

The 25 branches of the Labor Party in the Haifa region, comprising 13,000 members, are threatening to boycott the party's primaries, unless the region is reserved a place relatively high on the party's Knesset list, according to MK Yona Yahav.

The region, which presently has three Labor MKs, is concerned none will be elected to the 15th Knesset as a result of next month's key party vote.

A committee headed by party

chairman Ehud Barak was last night attempting to finalize the order of slots for the primaries, which are scheduled for mid-February.

Party workers confirmed that Haifa was likely to be placed 29th on the list, with Jerusalem in the 32nd slot.

As a result, Jerusalem MK Ophir Pines has already announced that he will only compete for a seat on the national list, rather than in the Jerusalem regional race.

The top 16 places are reserved for national candidates, for whom

all party members are entitled to vote. Within the top 16, however, three places have already been pledged to Barak (1), Shimon Peres (2) and Ra'anan Cohen (7).

The remainder of the list is split between the various regions and sectors, such as immigrants.

The list is likely to number 40, with the party presently predicting that it will end up with 34 seats - its total in the current Knesset.

However, some polls are giving Labor only 25 seats; if this actually happens, Haifa and Jerusalem could have no designated Labor

representation in the 15th Knesset.

In the last primaries, three years ago, the regions each received two seats, but as Labor received fewer seats in 1996 than previously it was decided that this time each region would only have one place on the 1999 list. In '96, the 16th and 34th places were reserved for Haifa.

This evening, representatives of the 25 branches in the region and its serving MKs, Yahav, Yossi Katz and Jhevah Weiss (who will run on the national list), will discuss a proposal to boycott the primaries unless a slot for Haifa is given one

of the top 20 places on the list.

Regional party workers explained that in the Haifa region, the vote for Labor in the general elections is some 15 percent higher than that in other parts of the country and that its 13,000 members are 10% of the overall Labor Party membership. Therefore, they believe, the region deserves better treatment.

Prospective candidates for Labor's list have until noon today to register their interest. The party expects more than 100 people to run.

NEWS

in brief

SLA soldier wounded

Hizbullah guerrillas, claiming responsibility, launched a heavy mortar barrage against South Lebanese Army positions yesterday afternoon, lightly wounding at least one militiaman, security sources said.

One of the positions also suffered damage, the sources said. IDF and SLA artillery fired back, IDF sources said.

IDF troops staged a raid in south Lebanon earlier, targeting bomb-laying squads near "hostile" villages in the central sector north of the security zones. The army said that the villages were used as launching pads for guerrillas laying explosives against IDF and SLA forces. Military sources said Israeli forces suffered no casualties. *Arieh O'Sullivan*

Arafat, Mubarak hold talks on ME peace

Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak met Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat in Egypt yesterday for talks on Middle East peace efforts, presidential officials said.

The two leaders met in Sharm el-Sheikh shortly after Arafat arrived in the Red Sea resort. Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Moussa, who also attended the talks, called peace-making under Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu a failure. *Reuters*

Palestinians get an international area code

Imad Falouji, the Palestinian Telecommunications Minister, announced yesterday that the Palestinian Authority has been granted its own international telephone area code - 970 - which should be operational by March. Previously, Palestinians have been using 972, Israel's international code.

The code was reserved for the PA in November by the UN-affiliated International Telecommunications Union. The PA Cabinet said Friday that the decision was a welcome "recognition of Palestinian national independence and sovereignty." *AP*

Two women murder victims found

Miriam Avraham, 46, a divorced mother of four, was found strangled in her Petah Tikva home on Friday. Her bound and gagged body was discovered by a family friend who became concerned when Avraham did not meet with him as scheduled.

In Moshav Mesua in the Jordan Valley, the body of Shenka Shabas, 73, was discovered by visiting relatives. Police believe that Shabas was beaten and strangled by intruders who also ransacked her house. It has not been determined whether or the crime had a nationalist motivation. *Jim*

Body returned from India

The body of Capt. Nadav Mentzer, who had been missing in India since September 1997, was brought home Thursday night, the IDF spokesman said.

All trace of Mentzer was lost while he was in India on a private tour unconnected with the IDF. His body was found recently. *Arieh O'Sullivan*

Woman soldier arrested for computer virus

Military police arrested a woman soldier last Wednesday on suspicion of deliberately wiping out her unit's computer system. The soldier confessed to infecting the computers with a lethal virus - called "Poom" - to spite her comrades. The soldier's boyfriend, who designed the virus and assisted in its implementation, was arrested by the police fraud squad computer crime unit.

The IDF said that computer crime was high on the military police agenda and that dozens of investigators have been trained to handle such probes. *Arieh O'Sullivan*

Four die, at least four injured in road accidents

A woman driver was killed yesterday afternoon and another person was seriously injured in a crash near Pardesiya yesterday, while two other women from Netanya died and three others were injured in a collision between a truck and a car on the coastal highway near Shefayim. A fourth road victim was a truck driver killed Friday when his vehicle overturned in the Arava.

The accident near Pardesiya occurred after a private vehicle overtook another and crashed head on into oncoming traffic. Those killed in the Shefayim crash were identified as Amelia Schkolnikov, 51 and Anna Metayiv, 32, from Netanya. The other victims were not identified. *Jim*

Likud votes for leader tomorrow

By DAVID ZEY HARRIS

Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu and Moshe Arens will tomorrow face-off in the battle for the leadership of the Likud.

The party's 160,000 members are entitled to participate in voting, with the result being declared at 1 p.m. on Tuesday.

Netanyahu is considered by far the favorite, strongly supported in both the central committee and at grassroots level. Last night Arens refused to discuss Netanyahu's offer of the defense portfolio.

Meanwhile, 87 Likud members registered as candidates for the party's Knesset list, when it closed on Friday afternoon.

Besides Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai, who was dismissed last night, other veteran Likud MKs who did not register include prime-ministerial candidates Begin and Meridor, Knesset Speaker Dan Tichon and MK David Re'em.

Several positions on the list are reserved: 10, 20, 30 and 35 for women, 21 for minorities, 28 for immigrants and 31 for young party members.

Voting will take place on February 8 among the 2,700 members of the party's central committee.



Science Minister Silvan Shalom submits his candidacy for the May 17 elections Friday at Likud Party headquarters in Tel Aviv. Friday was the last day for Likud candidates to file. (Yael Sonek/Israel Sun)

Any man who betrays the principles of those who voted for him is unfit to be among our ranks...and so our ways must separate. Therefore you can no longer serve as defense minister in a Likud government - Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu quoting from his letter dismissing Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai

Tonight Mr. Netanyahu sent me a letter full of lies, slurs and inaccuracies, which are appropriate for a petty politician. The prime minister no longer deserves my personal faith, and I guess, that of the people of Israel

ON THE RECORD

Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai, in response.

I'm in the middle of a primary campaign and until the votes are counted and we find out what the results are, I'm not going to make any comments - Moshe Arens on the possibility of his becoming defense minister.

We all know that the Likud is in dire straits. The best of its

sons are leaving, and the loyalty of others is wavering. We need to begin talking about the real issues of the day - the political and social issues troubling this country - and stop with all the dirty politics - Arens, on January 14, during a visit to Hebron

Netanyahu's inability to command the faith of people - both his ministers and leaders in the region and world - a phenomenon we've all witnessed tonight, is damaging the interests of the state - Labor Party leader Ehud Barak in response to Mordechai's departure from the government.

Meretz to choose list today

By DAVID ZEY HARRIS

Meretz chooses its list of election candidates today, the first party to select its potential MKs.

Today's vote among members of the party's 950-strong council is to select a panel of 27 from 59 candidates.

Any MK who has already served through two parliaments - which takes into account all nine MKs - must receive at least 60 percent support in order to be selected for the panel.

On February 9, the party's 3,000-member caucus will then prioritize the list from the second slot onwards.

The leadership vote will also take place today, with the leader guaranteed the no. 1 spot on the list.

There are six candidates for the leadership, including the present incumbent Yossi Sarid, MK Dedi Zucker and party secretary-general Hanan Erez. Two of the candidates, Sarid and journalist Gideon Spiro are only contesting the leadership of the party and their names will not appear on the wider list.

In the top ten places, there must be three women, three new faces and an Arab, with at least one woman in the top five.

Among the new faces likely to appear on the list is Peace Now head Moshe Raz.

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After DDT and organic phosphates - again face the "locust-caten years." Locusts: A potential pest of organic phosphates

Swiss Holocaust agreement finalized

Terms reached for defining eligible victims

By MARILYN HENRY

NEW YORK —The Swiss banks, Holocaust survivors' lawyers and the World Jewish Restitution Organization reached an agreement on the details of their \$1.25 billion settlement after a "three-corner" negotiating session in Brooklyn that began Thursday evening and ended in the early hours of Friday morning.

Meeting in an informal session with US Federal Judge Edward Korman, lawyers for survivors, the banks UBS and Credit Suisse, as well as the WJRO, hammered out a definition for the classes of people who would be eligible for compensation according to the settlement. The agreement, which one lawyer called "60 pages of dense legal language," is due to be signed this week, more than five months after the settlement was announced.

"We were all embarrassed that it is taking this long to get this thing under way," plaintiffs' lawyer Burt Neuborne said Friday. "There are elderly people who need this money. It is not acceptable to delay. I think that sense of urgency was recognized and acknowledged by everyone."

Despite a widely held perception that the \$1.25 billion is to be shared by all Holocaust survivors, the settlement terms call for the funds to be divided among classes of victims, sources said. These are: depositors and heirs of the hoarded or unclaimed Swiss bank accounts; those whose assets were looted and then laundered through the Swiss banks; two categories of slave laborers; and refugees who were turned away by Switzerland during World War II.

The beneficiaries are, for the most part, limited to Jews, Jehovah's Witnesses, the Romanis (Gypsies), homosexuals and the disabled.

The next step involves the "special master" of the case, Manhattan attorney Judah Gribetz, who will be appointed this week by Korman. The master's task is to hear suggestions on how the settlement should be

allocated. Gribetz ultimately will recommend a distribution plan to Korman, who will make the final decision on how the funds will be divided.

There were numerous points of contention that had delayed the agreement. The WJRO had sought a special advisory role to the master, which was opposed by the survivors' lawyers, in part because the WJRO itself is said to be seeking funds from the settlement. The banks, meanwhile, had insisted that the WJRO sign off on the agreement.

After some four hours of negotiations Thursday night between the WJRO and survivors' lawyers, it was agreed that the WJRO should be a "party" to the settlement in recognition of its role in the Swiss banks issue.

Korman had indicated that he would not accept any special adviser to the master. "I am not going to do anything that is going to create the reality or the impression that anyone has an inside track," one source quoted Korman as saying during the negotiating session.

"Everyone agrees it is a completely level playing field," Neuborne, a professor at New York University Law School, said, referring to the distribution of the settlement.

The agreement releases UBS, Credit Suisse and other commercial banks, the Swiss National Bank, the Swiss government and Swiss industry, other than insurance companies, from all Holocaust-related claims. The Swiss government, however, was not a direct party to the talks.

"The Federal Council expresses its hope that this final settlement will promptly benefit the victims of the Holocaust," the Swiss government said Friday in a statement in Bern. "This settlement provides a closure of all the financial claims raised against Switzerland."

When the settlement was announced in August, it appeared to release Switzerland and its institutions, other than insurers, from all claims from all parties. However, there were serious differences in interpretation over

who would be covered in the classes.

The WJRO had argued that only Jews should be included, but later agreed to include Jehovah's Witnesses, Romanis, homosexuals and the disabled, two lawyers said. The rationale was that Jewish organizations fought for the agreement, called it a "Jewish settlement," and said that if they had to share it too broadly, they would not sign it, according to lawyers from both sides.

The effect, though, is to exclude a large proportion of potential beneficiaries who are non-Jewish Nazi victims, specifically Poles and Ukrainians.

"The accounts that were dormant are a small part of the settlement," said one lawyer, who declined to be identified. "The main issue is unjust enrichment of banks from German-conducted slave labor and looting. Probably the largest group of slave labor was Poles."

The so-called "deposited-assets, looted-assets and refugee" classes are limited to the five groups named as victims of Nazi persecution. The slave labor claims against the banks, which refer to the banks handling profits of slave labor, also are limited.

The slave labor claims against Swiss companies that used forced labor, and their German affiliates, are to be distributed among all the victims.

There also were reports Friday that Christoph Meili, the Swiss bank guard who was fired after salvaging Holocaust-era documents that were to be shredded by UBS, would receive compensation from the settlement.

Last January, Meili filed a suit against the bank, seeking \$60 million for himself as well as damages on behalf of the Swiss people. Last November, he received a full, four-year scholarship at a private school, Chapman University in Orange County, California. During his studies, Meili and his family will be supported by Holocaust survivors and the Jewish community.



Remembering the 35

Jonathan Mass lights a torch Friday at the military cemetery on Mount Herzl in memory of the 35-member group known in Hebrew as the 'lamed-heh,' who were killed while trying to bring ammunition to besieged Gush Etzion during the Independence War. Mass' brother Danny Mass, one of those who fell, was a Palmach officer who commanded 'the lamed-heh.' (Yusef Loeb)

3 held on suspicion of joint taxi theft ring with Palestinians

By MARGOT DUDKEVITCH

Three Israelis suspected of involvement in a joint taxi theft ring with Palestinians were due to be remanded last night by Tel Aviv Magistrates' Court, after being arrested on Friday while attempting to steal a cab.

The suspects include a couple in their late 30s from Acre and a third is from Tamra, police said.

Judea and Samaria police spokesman Opher Sivan said that a fourth suspect from Tamra is still at large. The suspects are believed to have worked in collaboration with three Palestinians from Tulkarem.

Sivan said that the suspects have admitted to stealing six taxis. In all, he added, 20 taxis have been reported stolen in the last six months. The Palestinian Police has been asked to arrest the suspects from

Tulkarem, a city under Palestinian Authority control. According to Sivan, the Palestinian force has failed to help solve previous cases of taxi thefts.

The arrests were made Friday after the couple from Acre attempted to rob a taxi driver near Tulkarem. According to police, the couple had hired the cab in Ashdod and asked to be driven to Tulkarem where they said they had to pick up a car that had undergone repairs.

The driver noticed that a Palestinian passenger they picked up on the way was holding a knife. After a struggle, the Palestinian fled from the car. Then the taxi sped off to the nearest IDF outpost where the driver turned over the two Israeli suspects, police said.

According to Sivan, the suspects from Acre had taken orders from a Palestinian gang in Tulkarem to

bring them taxis from central Israel.

In previous instances, a Palestinian would be picked up on the way under the pretext of showing them how to get to a Tulkarem garage. Then the driver would be forced out of the cab at knifepoint and the vehicle would be driven away into a PA-controlled area.

Ring members would also divide up money found in the taxi, police said. According to Sivan, the two Israelis in custody were paid NIS 1,000 for every taxi ordered.

Meanwhile Judea and Samaria police arrested 14 Palestinians suspected of stealing cars on Thursday night during raids on scores of villages.

The arrests followed the establishment two weeks ago of a special police unit to deal with thefts of vehicles believed being taken to the West Bank.

Arab bloc demands GA session on settlements

By MARILYN HENRY

NEW YORK —The 22-member Arab bloc at the UN is expected to call for yet another round of an emergency session of the General Assembly on Israeli settlements, almost two years after Palestinian vexation with Har Homa led to the special sessions as well as to agitation for an unprecedented conference of a Geneva Convention.

"The Arab Group is now in the process of contacting different geographical and political groups, and the president of the General Assembly, with a view to requesting a reconvening of the special session on the question of Israeli settlement policies," Ambassador Hussein Hassouna told Reuters last week.

The emergency session likely would be at the beginning of February, sources said. It was first convened in April 1997 and has been reconvened three times since then, most recently in March 1998.

The emergency sessions were invoked after the US twice vetoed Security Council resolutions that would have condemned Israel for plans to build housing at Har Homa.

By overwhelming majorities, these sessions condemned Israel. However, votes of the 185-member General Assembly are not binding.

At the second emergency session, in July 1997, the assembly also urged Switzerland to convene a conference of the 188 parties to the convention to discuss its enforcement "in the occupied Palestinian territory, including Jerusalem."

No such conference has been held since the Geneva Conventions were adopted in 1949. The international protocols, which bar settlements in occupied territories, offer no guidelines on the mechanics of convening such a conference.

Switzerland, laying it feared that the humanitarian law would become politicized, instead has convened meetings of "experts" on the convention. They determined that the question of applying the Geneva Convention was not technical, according to a Swiss diplomat at the UN, Jean-Francois Paroz.

"It's a political or a juridical problem," he said, noting that many states do not accept the terms of the conventions, and the states with the gravest humanitarian threats, such as Bosnia and Rwanda, have not agreed to be bound by the Geneva rules.

Israel contends it observes the humanitarian provisions of the Fourth Geneva Convention but it disputes that the convention applies to the territories.

Further, one western diplomat noted that the Palestinians originally sought the emergency session because of grievances over what began as dispute over housing construction. "This is not a major violation of human rights, not when we have massacre and torture," he said, referring to the recent massacre in Kosovo.

Switzerland also has sponsored talks including the International Red Cross, Israel and the Palestinians.

"The General Assembly cannot force Switzerland or the parties to hold a convention," said Paroz. Switzerland is an observer, not a member, of the UN.

Olmert in Japan for visit

By MIKE JACOBS

TOKYO — Ehud Olmert had a rapid and busy tour of Japan last week: presenting an award, giving a lecture, speaking at a press luncheon, attending the opening of his wife's Tokyo art exhibition and also finding time to meet with the Japanese prime minister and foreign minister.

Officially, the main purpose of Olmert's trip was to present the "Faithful to Jerusalem" Award to Father Otsuki, founder of the Holy Jesus Society in Kyoto; a city once the nation's capital and now the spiritual capital of Japan for many, differing sects of Buddhism.

After being welcomed by the country's senior ministers, Olmert said: "I was very honored that they should find time for me simply as a city mayor."

"We may have differing perspectives of Middle East issues, but there's a deep understanding in Israel of Japan's role in Middle East affairs," he added.

Pointing out that economic development is the stabilizing element for peace negotiations, Olmert said he believed Japan

will be a great help in this respect.

Olmert told a packed luncheon at the Foreign Correspondent's Club of Japan that "all Jerusalem residents, Jews or Arabs, enjoyed democratic processes and based anything laid down by the gun."

"I received many Arab votes when I was elected as mayor, because they can criticize me openly and remain alive. It will be a great day when an Arab stands as mayor of Jerusalem, but I warn everybody... I'll fight any Jew or Arab to keep my job."

He was critical of Benjamin Netanyahu's tenure as prime minister, saying "Netanyahu may be cutting his own political throat. It's the first time a political leader has parted from their party's platform."

The mayor's wife, Aliza, was the main attraction at the NIKKO Gallery in Tokyo, where her exhibition, "The Greener Grass" opened last week.

Displays of green-painted "domestic trivia," under a heading of contemporary art, pleasantly surprised Japanese viewers, besides "stretching my imagination," as one confessed.

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Kidnapping of Serb civilians creates new standoff in Kosovo

By ROBERT H. REID

PRISTINA (AP) — International peace monitors tried yesterday to defuse another dangerous standoff in Kosovo after separatist ethnic Albanian guerrillas seized five Serb villagers.

Serb sources, speaking on condition of anonymity, said they were optimistic the five would be released.

The monitors were said to be negotiating with the rebels, but there were no details.

The kidnapping Friday came as international officials pressured government forces and the rebel Kosovo Liberation Army to stop attacks in the separatist province in Serbia, Yugoslavia's dominant republic.

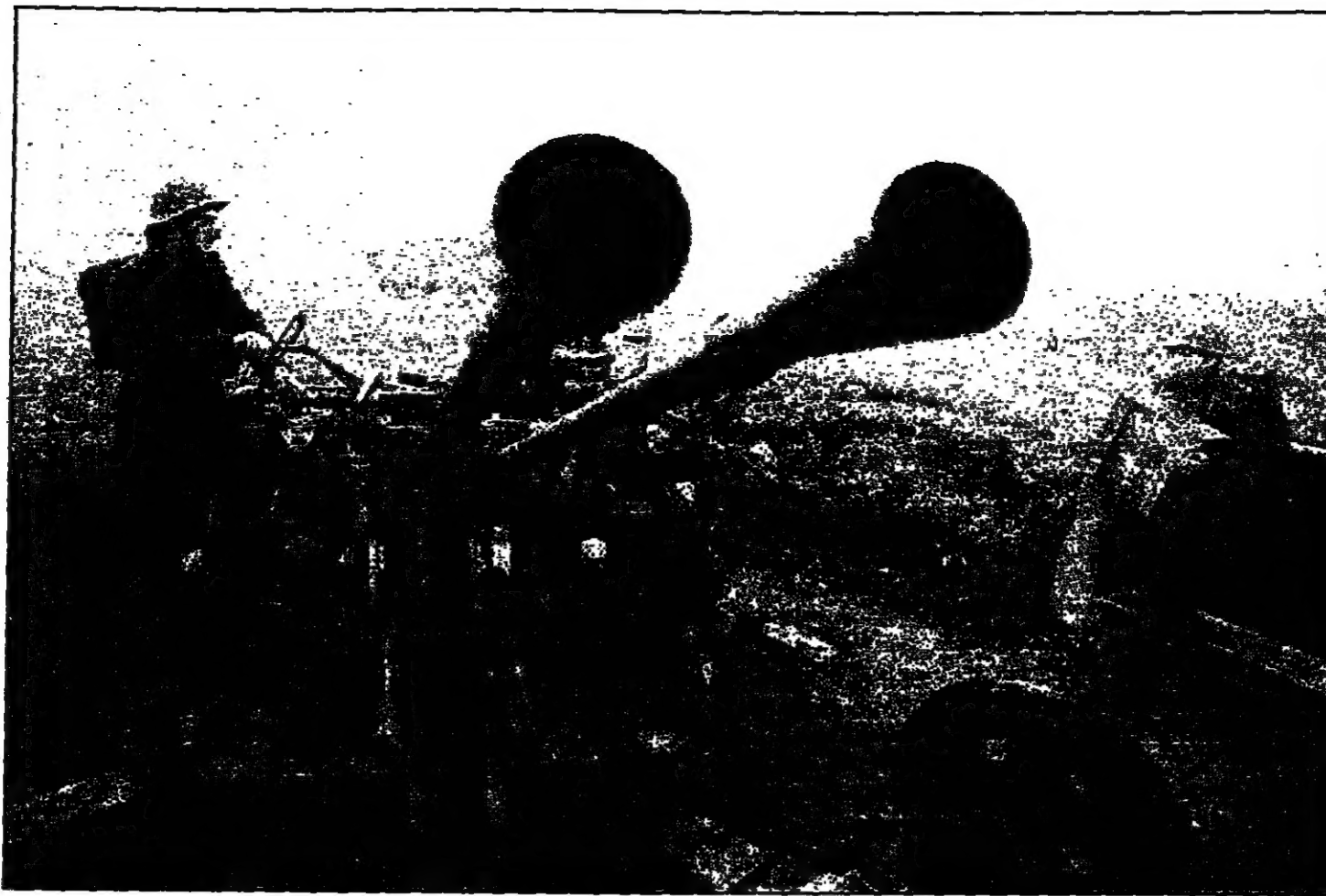
Condemned by the Yugoslav government for accusing its security forces of the January 15 massacre of 45 ethnic Albanians in the village of Racak, the monitors urged KLA leaders to release the five Serbs, the state news agency Tanjug reported late Friday.

"I think that was a very, very uncivilized thing for them to do, to kidnap civilians," said US diplomat William Walker, who heads an international mission monitoring the fragile truce in Kosovo. "I want to condemn it," Walker, who spoke as he headed out of Pristina for a tour of the province, also referred to "a good bit of military activity" yesterday in Kosovo, despite mounting international pressure to stop the violence.

He did not elaborate and there were no early reports of major clashes. The Serbs, however, have been reinforcing positions in northern Kosovo over the past few days, with at least five tanks dug in just off the main highway from Belgrade.

The kidnapping of elderly Serbs from their homes occurred before dawn in the village of Nevojane, about 25 kms. northwest of Pristina, the Serb Media Center said.

Serbian police told Tanjug they were searching for the "terrorists," their term for KLA rebels, and



An anti-aircraft Albanian unit trains Friday near the border with Yugoslavia's Kosovo province.

"taking measures" to free the abducted civilians. It wasn't clear if that meant they planned a security sweep targeting rebel strongholds and villages, as in previous actions.

International verifiers were standing by their initial finding that Serb police were to blame for the Racak massacre.

Walker said in Pristina that only the definition of "massacre" was at issue.

A report by the Kosovo Verification Mission on the Racak killings, obtained Friday, confirmed that monitors found "evi-

dence of arbitrary detentions, extra-judicial killings and the mutilation of unarmed civilians" by Yugoslav security forces.

But in a report Friday in the Belgrade daily newspaper Politika, Serb authorities reiterated that all those killed in Racak were guerrillas who died in a battle the verifiers witnessed.

Walker's expulsion from the country for blaming Serb forces was suspended by Yugoslavia early Friday. In Washington, US Secretary of State Madeleine Albright said suspending Walker's expulsion "is necessary

but not sufficient" for resolving the crisis.

The January 15 massacre, the biggest blow yet to an October cease-fire agreement, unleashed a storm of international condemnation and threats of NATO airstrikes against Yugoslavia for failure to comply with the peace agreement.

More than 2,000 people have been killed in fighting between separatist guerrillas and Yugoslav and Serbian forces in Kosovo.

NATO ambassadors, gathered in Brussels, Belgium, announced further preparations Friday for air

strikes against Yugoslavia and also discussed ways of "reining in" ethnic Albanian rebels.

US and European diplomats meeting in London condemned Serb actions and also drew up a proposal to be put to the Belgrade government and ethnic Albanians next week in an effort to start political talks.

Albanian-language media reported yesterday that a delegation from Kosovo's ethnic Albanian assembly was planning to go to the Albanian capital of Tirana in the next few days for talks on a joint negotiating stand.

N. Korea: US threatens nuclear war

TOKYO (Reuters) — North Korea accused the US yesterday of pushing the Korean peninsula to the brink of nuclear war.

"It is the final goal of the US warmongers to stifle the Korean socialist system with nuclear attacks," said a commentary in the North Korean official party newspaper Rodong Sinmun.

The paper, monitored in Tokyo, said that unless the United States changed direction, "an armed con-

flict, that is a nuclear war, is unavoidable."

The paper said that the US had made the threat to use nuclear weapons against North Korea at the 20th Military Committee Meeting with South Korea earlier this week.

Pyeongyang said it is ready to meet the US challenge and that it will attack the US mainland if the US "attempts to inflict a nuclear holocaust on the DPRK (North Korea)."

ANC renegade shot to death

RICHMOND, South Africa (AP) — A man who helped form an opposition party after his 1997 ouster from President Nelson Mandela's ruling party was fatally shot today.

Sifiso Nkabinde, who had been kicked out of the African National Congress because of allegations he had spied for apartheid police, was killed when gunmen opened fire early today on him and two other people outside a shopping center, police said.

No details were immediately

available on the condition of the other two victims.

Bantu Holomisa, leader of Nkabinde's opposition United Democratic Movement, said he suspected the "barbaric" attack was politically motivated. He urged UDM supporters to resist the temptation for revenge attacks.

"We appeal to the people of Richmond to assist the police in tracking down the perpetrators," he said.

ANC leaders had accused Nkabinde of being a central fig-

ure in political violence that has plagued the KwaZulu-Natal region for over a decade.

But in a trial last year, Nkabinde was acquitted on charges of killing 16 people. The judge ruled for acquittal, saying prosecutors had lied and witnesses sounded as if they had been coached.

Nkabinde said in an interview last year with The Associated Press that ANC leaders implicated him in factional fighting for political reasons, and denied any involvement in the violence.

Clinton seeks funds to battle terrorism

By STEVE HOLLAND

WASHINGTON (Reuters) — President Bill Clinton drew a high-minded portrait of 21st century terrorism and asked Congress for more than \$2.8 billion to defend against chemical and germ warfare and protect computer networks.

"If we prepare to defend against these emerging threats, we will show terrorists that assaults on America will accomplish nothing but their own downfall," Clinton said Friday in a speech at the National Academy of Sciences.

Clinton said his proposed budget for the 2000 fiscal year starting next October 1, which he is to present to Congress on February 1, will include requests for

\$2.85b. for the effort. That breaks down to \$1.46b. for computer security and critical infrastructure protection, and \$1.39b. for domestic readiness against an attack with weapons of mass destruction, both hefty increases over the current budget.

The budget request also proposes over \$7b. for conventional counter-terrorism security programs.

Clinton described a world of frightening terror scenarios involving nerve gas and germ attacks and computer hacking that, until now, have largely been the province of thriller novels.

"This is not a cause for panic," he said. "It is a cause for serious, deliberate, disciplined, long-term concern."

3 Christians burned alive in India

By BANDITA DAS

BHUBANESWAR, India (Reuters) — An Australian-born Christian missionary and his two sons were burned alive when their vehicle in which they were sleeping was set alight, police and officials said yesterday.

"They were sleeping inside their vehicle which was set on fire by some miscreants," a local police official said. The incident took place in the eastern Indian state of Orissa.

Police said 58-year-old Graham Stewart Staine and his two sons, Philip, 10 and Timothy, eight, were burned to death in the incident.

"His two sons, Philip and Timothy who had come from Australia for vacation, also died of burns," said Sujit Das, a senior Interior Ministry official in Orissa. Staine had arrived from neigh-

boring Baripada town to attend a meeting at a local church. His wife and daughter had stayed at Baripada.

Local police said the incident occurred early yesterday at Manoharpur in Keonjhar district, about 200 kilometers from the state capital. The village church was also burned down.

Staine had been working among tribal peoples and lepers for the last 30 years in the state, officials said.

Indian Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee condemned the attack and asked for speedy action to punish the culprits.

"The prime minister expressed extreme shock at the incident. The Prime Minister has asked the state government to bring the culprits to book immediately and without delay."

BK Mudli, President of

Christian Community, said: "No more the minorities, especially Christians, feel secure in the country. This ghastly incident is condemnable. Both the centre and the state government should immediately take proper steps to nab the culprit," said JP Mathur, vice-president of the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party.

WORLD in brief

Ten found murdered in Philippines

MANILA (AP) — The bodies of 10 men have been found inside five steel barrels in a remote village north of Manila, authorities said yesterday.

A wood cutter discovered the steel barrels, marked "New Zealand Milk Products," late Friday in a ravine in Norzagaray in Bulacan province, police said.

Police made the gruesome discovery after using acetylene torches to open the barrels. They found two bodies covered in cement in each of the five barrels.

Relatives said the men had been missing since attending a birthday party last Wednesday in the northern Manila suburb of Valenzuela.

Police refused to speculate on the motive for the killings.

20 killed in Sudan

KHARTOUM (Reuters) — More than 20 people were killed in western Sudan this week in tribal clashes over pasture, a privately-owned Sudanese newspaper reported yesterday.

Al-Rai al-Am said a group of nomads and Mesalit tribesmen had fought over grazing rights on the outskirts of Geneina, some 1,000 kilometers west of Khartoum.

Rivalry over scarce water resources and grazing areas have sparked many bloody conflicts in western Sudan in the past.

Princess Caroline of Monaco marrying

MONTE CARLO (Reuters) — Princess Caroline of Monaco was to marry her longtime German lover Prince Ernst of Hanover in a civil ceremony at the Monte Carlo town hall yesterday, officials of the tiny Riviera principality said.

The royal family has made no public announcement of the marriage but word leaked out after Prince Rainier, Caroline's father, wrote to French President Jacques Chirac to inform him of the coming event.

The marriage was to take place on the princess's 42nd birthday. Princess Caroline, Prince Rainier's eldest child, has kept largely out of the media glare since the death of her second husband, Stefano Casiraghi, in a powerboat accident off the French Riviera in 1990.

Prince Edward to marry in June

LONDON (Reuters) — Britain's Prince Edward (34), Queen Elizabeth's last bachelor son, will marry his long-time girlfriend, Sophie Rhys-Jones (33), on June 19, a spokesman for Buckingham Palace said. The wedding will take place in St George's Chapel in Windsor Castle, the Queen's residence just west of London.

Romanian govt. settles with coal miners

BUCHAREST (AP) — Striking miners ended a violent five-day march to Romania's capital Friday after reaching a deal with the government, avoiding a threatened state of emergency.

Prime Minister Radu Vasile emerged from four hours of talks with union leaders at a monastery in the central city of Cozia, saying, "Neither the miners nor the government won. Only the country won, because there will be peace," Vasile said.

After five days of clashes injured 190 people, mostly police officers, the government sent hundreds of military vehicles to keep the angry miners from reaching the capital.

Yeltsin holds meeting in hospital

MOSCOW (Reuters) — Russian President Boris Yeltsin, in hospital recovering from a stomach ulcer, held a lengthy meeting with his chief of staff yesterday and was keen to leave hospital, the Kremlin said.

However, chief spokesman Dmitry Yakushkin said Yeltsin would not be allowed to check out for another week at least, depending on his doctors' opinion.

"He is very active, he really wants to leave the hospital," Yakushkin told Reuters Television News.

"He will stay in the Central Clinical Hospital until the end of (next) week, that's for sure. Every extra day he spends in the hospital is good for him, that is what the doctors are saying."

Another Kremlin spokesman said after Yeltsin's meeting with Nikolai Bordyuzha: "Boris Nikolayevich is in working mood and feels well enough to hold an hour-long conversation." Yeltsin was rushed to hospital on Sunday with a bleeding stomach ulcer.

Doctors have decided he does not require surgery and the ulcer can be treated with drugs.

Yakushkin said doctors had allowed him to walk around in his hospital room. "He is never in bed. He works all the time sitting at the table," he said.

Both spokesmen said Yeltsin and Bordyuzha had discussed the political and economic situation in Russia, as well as a number of international issues such as Iraq and Kosovo.

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Israel Police National Headquarters Investigations Branch Missing Persons Bureau

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Israel Police requests the help of the public in its search for a missing person, a woman tourist from Ghana, Gysi Yaagyafrash, who was last seen in Tel Aviv on January 2, 1999, and whose whereabouts are unknown.

Description: 19 years old, height 165 cm., build thin, hair long, brown, in multiple braids eyes black

She speaks English.

Anyone with information of her whereabouts is requested to call: 03-630-4444, 03-630-4473-4, 02-500-6442, or the police station nearest your home.

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Stalling in Kosovo

Yugoslav President Slobodan Milosevic is again playing his cat and mouse game with the world community as he pursues his attempts to enforce ethnic cleansing in Kosovo.

There can be little doubt that the Serbian police operation in Racak last week, which led to the massacre of 45 Kosovo Albanians, could not have been carried out without his approval. There was even less doubt that the follow-up police actions to remove the corpses and evidence bore the stamp of a Milosevic order.

Now, under a new threat from NATO, Milosevic has tactically backed off to some extent. He has suspended the expulsion of William Walker, the head of the international cease-fire monitoring mission, who was ordered out of Kosovo for blaming Serb forces for the massacre. The Serbs have also allowed a Finnish forensic team to examine the corpses. None of this is enough to warrant the West falling one more time for familiar Serb tactics of pushing forward in their objectives, and then holding ground by making some cosmetic concessions.

Milosevic has not withdrawn his forces from key positions in Kosovo as required by last October's cease-fire agreement which saved his forces from NATO's wrath by mere hours. Neither have the Serbs allowed UN war crimes prosecutor Louise Arbour into Kosovo to investigate the Racak atrocity. In addition, the UN estimates that some 5,500 people have fled three Kosovo Albanian villages since Milosevic's forces launched their continuing offensive there.

All in all, Milosevic has done nowhere near enough to justify lifting the threat of air strikes for his violations of the October accord. A political solution is of course required in Kosovo, but

in dealing with the Belgrade government the Bosnia experience made it clear that Milosevic will pay attention only when political action is backed up by a real threat of force.

However, at present he is perfectly well aware that US allies in NATO have little taste for starting an air war they may not be able to finish without committing ground forces to Kosovo.

The rebel Kosovo Liberation Army (KLA) has not made life any easier for Western policy planners by its hard-line demand for total independence, an unrealistic objective almost nobody in the international community wants. The KLA is doing its own people a disservice by making independence a pre-condition for further negotiations, giving Milosevic post-facto justification for the excesses of his troops in Kosovo.

Unfortunately, it is the international monitors in Kosovo who are left in an almost impossible position - unarmed, bullied by the Serbs, unsupported by NATO, let down by Western politicians. They are from the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) and are in danger of being humiliated by the Serbs as the United Nations before them, and as NATO will be if it continues to threaten action and then back away from it. The OSCE monitors were set up to verify the October agreement and to help further a political solution. They have been unable to stop the truce being ignored, are stuck with a stalled political process, and will be unable to prevent a return to all-out fighting when spring arrives.

In Kosovo, no one is winning except Milosevic. It is not a situation conducive to any political progress unless NATO can convince him it means business this time.

Front line Brazil

It is sobering to consider what might have happened to the world economy were it not for the unprecedented economic strength the United States has achieved under the administration of President Bill Clinton. First Asia, then Russia, and now Brazil have sent shock waves through world markets. Fortunately, the shocks so far have been absorbed with barely a ripple when they reached US economic shores.

However, Brazil - the eighth largest economy in the world - remains a powerful test case and investors continue to watch it nervously after the government's floating of the currency two weeks ago sent it on a downward plunge reminiscent of what happened to the Russian ruble. Brazil is now on the front line of the battle to save the global economy from massive recession. It will still have to hoist itself out of its worst-ever financial crisis in recent decades. Any further serious setbacks in Brazil could start a negative chain reaction in Argentina and other Latin American countries. This is a scenario that could still endanger the US economy.

The Brazilian government was obliged to step in again at the end of last week, buying dollars to try to slow the plunge of the real. As usual, world market leaders are calling for the US to take action to prevent the Brazilian economic crisis from turning into a global one. Americans may find constant cries for help irritating, but given their country's economic strength, it is inevitable, and indeed it is in the Americans' own self-interest to heed such calls.

As a net beneficiary of the massive flows of capital, technology, goods and services that go under the title of globalization, the United States has the primary responsibility to help restore faith in the world financial system. One of Washington's top priorities must be to push for global norms in those rules of banking, law, and government which are essential for a healthy and transparent marketplace. Such norms have been most sorely neglected or abused in those states which have been worst-hit by the recent crises - Indonesia, Korea, Japan, Russia, and Brazil. The lessons to be learned should be obvious.

Lurie's NewsCartoon



50 years of partnership

Today marks 50 years since France recognized de facto the State of Israel. May 11 will mark the 50th anniversary of the establishment of their formal diplomatic relations, coinciding with the accession of Israel to the United Nations.

It is worthwhile recalling some aspects of this long history of deep friendship, never really affected by occasional differences.

A basic element of the special relationship that exists between France and Israel is the importance which the Jewish community, now the largest in Europe (about 800,000), has always had in the history of France.

It was in France that the Jews were first "emancipated" in Europe in 1791, as a result of the French Revolution. The Dreyfus Affair profoundly divided French society. In spite of the unforgivable crimes of the Vichy regime during World War II, it was in France that the largest proportion of the Jewish community (75%) escaped the Holocaust, mainly thanks to the action of ordinary people, many of whom are acknowledged in Yad Vashem.

The French authorities, in particular since 1995, have done their utmost to settle claims from Holocaust survivors or their heirs concerning restitution of their assets, including works of art. The Jewish community has played, and continues to play an important part in French political and social life, with such outstanding statespersons as Leon Blum, Pierre Mendes France and Simone Veil.

When the State of Israel was established, France was naturally at its side. For two decades, the IDF would not have been what it was without the massive aid granted by France. True, General de Gaulle's decision to apply a military embargo to all the countries involved in the Six Day War is still considered by many in Israel as an unfriendly gesture. But de Gaulle had warned Israel that he would support it only in case of an armed attack against the Jewish state.

Regarding the conflict between Israel and the Arab countries or the Palestinians, the constant preoccupa-

JEAN-NOEL
de BOUILLANE
de LACOSTE

tion of France has been the security of Israel and its recognition within safe borders. At the same time, France, alongside other states, could not condone the acquisition of territories by force in 1967.

Thus, France welcomed the acceptance of the "land for peace" formula at the 1991 Madrid Conference, which has already found expression in the 1993 Oslo Accord and in the 1994 peace

Our long history of deep friendship has never really affected by occasional differences

treaty with Jordan. This needs to be fully applied in a final-status agreement with the Palestinians as well as in peace treaties with Syria and Lebanon.

By supporting the idea of a Palestinian state, France is sometimes accused of prejudging the outcome of the final-status negotiations. But we have made it unequivocally clear that the final settlement cannot be imposed on the parties from the outside and that they have to achieve it themselves.

In our view, a Palestinian state would be a better partner to ensure Israel's security than an undefined entity without the necessary authority to implement accepted constraints, including international treaties ensuring that it does not threaten its neighbor.

Moreover, a Palestinian state could be better integrated in the regional economic environment and benefit from the cooperation needed for the development of its population, thereby reducing social pressure and the risks of violence.

The French conviction is not new: It was expressed in 1982, when president Francois

Mitterrand came to Jerusalem, as the first European head of state to visit Israel. It was repeated by President Jacques Chirac during his trip to the region in 1996.

At the same time, when addressing the Palestinian Legislative Council, the French president appealed to the Palestinians to ban any use of violence in their relationship with Israel and to develop democratic institutions. That aspect of the visit is often forgotten.

France's particular links with Lebanon and its good contacts with Syria should be considered an asset for Israel. One can see evidence of this in the activity of the Monitoring Group for the cease-fire in Lebanon, established in 1996, at France's initiative, after the Grapes of Wrath operation, and which it co-chairs with the United States.

In the bilateral field, relations between France and Israel are intense: France is the top destination for Israeli tourists. It is Israel's fifth-largest trade partner, and Israel is its second partner in the region. The number of French firms in Israel has multiplied by six over the last three years and France is Israel's third partner in scientific cooperation.

Roughly one out of five Israelis understands or speaks French, which makes Israel the second French-speaking country in the Middle East after Lebanon.

The security, stability and prosperity of the Israeli people, as those of its Arab neighbors, affect France directly as a Mediterranean country.

This is why France was among the promoters of the "Barcelona process," intended to establish a community based on cooperation and a free-trade area between the countries of that region and the European Union.

By providing one-fifth of the European aid to the Palestinians, including in the field of anti-terrorist action, France also contributes to Israel's security. Let us hope for the day when this process can be translated into a peaceful and fruitful relationship among all peoples of the Middle East.

The writer is the French ambassador to Israel.

Playing with fire

DANIEL BLOCH

Last week, I wrote in this column, "It is Mordechai who can turn the wheel to another direction. If he stays in the Likud, he boosts the chances of the prime minister. If he leaves, he makes it almost impossible for Bibi to win."

"The fate of the next elections is at this moment in the hands of Mordechai and even more - on his conscience."

Last night Netanyahu made the choice for him; by firing him, he forced him to cross the bridge to the center party, where he has reportedly been offered the No. 1 spot, making him that party's candidate for prime minister.

Why did Mordechai hesitate? Why didn't he announce his decision on Friday during prime time, when the whole country was waiting for his declaration?

I believe that he wanted to wait until Tuesday after the Likud's primaries, giving his party a last chance to defeat Netanyahu from inside. There is a growing, quiet under-current of support for Moshe Arens within the Likud's rank and file, from those who are scared of Bibi, his people, tactics and politics.

Many are also fed up with the cronies of Avigdor Lieberman who, although he has formed his own party, is still the real boss of the Likud's own Tammany Hall.

There are many who believe that if Arens wins, he can reunite the party. He can bring Benny Begin, Dan Meridor and others back home and ensure the place of the Likud in any future government - either as its head or as a senior partner.

Arens, they believe, can also restore the Likud's liberal policies on domestic issues - especially with regard to the rule of law and respect for the legal system, that were a basic value of the Likud movement in the days of Menachem Begin and Yitzhak Shamir.

Netanyahu and his supporters are scared of this scenario; that's why Bibi decided on a preemptive strike, firing Mordechai last night and offering his job to Arens.

By doing so, Bibi is trying to portray himself as someone who regrets alienating his political mentor, Arens, and is ready to include him in his cabinet, even though Arens ran against him. It also means that the defense portfolio would be returned to civilian rule, countering the growing number of generals joining the political fray (the latest being Matan Vilnai).

Lastly, it quiets those who feared the possibility of Netanyahu being prime minister, finance minister and defense minister during the crucial months ahead, thus holding an immense amount of power without any real checks and balances.

I DO not know how many people will be fooled by these tactics. The number of those who believe anything Netanyahu says diminishes every day. Abroad, the number is fast approaching zero.

Here in Israel, he still has credibility in the soul and among some of the haredim, though the latter probably don't believe him as much as they know Bibi cannot afford to alienate them.

He can still win tomorrow's leadership primary, because the party machinery is controlled by his people and they will do everything possible to prevent his downfall.

But many sensible people, when alone with their consciences in the ballot booth, will have to decide: can they really give him the power for another term?

It seems that many Likud leaders, from Limor Livnat, Moshe Katsov, and Meir Sheerit to Uzi Landau and Michael Eitan already know that they cannot vote for him with a clear conscience. They also know quite well that if Netanyahu forms the next government, they, and many other good people, will not have a place there, and will be replaced by the likes of Lieberman, Yisrael Katz, Doron Shmueli, Dan Naveh, and Naomi Blumenthal.

Mordechai tried to see if the Likud could effect a change from within. Now he has no other choice but to join the center party, with which he has a very good chance of unseating Netanyahu and forming the next government. Ehud Barak might be the other loser from Mordechai's move. But he brought it upon himself by his fatal mistake of agreeing to such a long period of electioneering.

For many the question is not personal, but who has the better chance of replacing this failing government: Mordechai, Arens, Barak or Amnon Lipkin-Shahak. Any one of them is better than Netanyahu.

So Netanyahu has gambled by firing his defense minister. But he is playing with fire, because undoubtedly Mordechai will counter with his own side of the story.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

THE ANTICHRIST

Sir, - With good pro-Israel credentials, it was unfortunate to see Rev. Jerry Falwell expressing the belief that the Antichrist of Bible prophecies "of course will be Jewish," in the article "Antichrist a male Jew, says US Christian leader" (January 17). The Bible teaches that this dark figure will deceive multitudes into following him. And indeed some Christians further infer, without any clear guidance from Scripture, that he also will deceive Jewry into proclaiming him as their long-awaited Messiah, which necessarily would require that he be of Jewish descent. While I would caution classifying this as an antisemitic belief, it is important to understand that there is no concrete reference in the prophetic Scriptures - either Tanach or New Testament - which would require that the Antichrist be Jewish or be hailed by the Jewish people as

Israel's promised Messiah. In fact, there is much in the Bible to lead one to an opposite conclusion: that he never even pretends to be Jewish, forces his will upon Israel and tramples on Jewish laws and traditions, much like the Syrian Antiochus IV Epiphanes and other types of Antichrist in the past.

In this alternative Christian viewpoint, to be truly "anti" or against Christ, he will oppose the very concept of a promised Jewish Messiah - a concept which we hold dear. Therefore, we are inclined to believe the Antichrist does not have to be Jewish, and in probability will not be.

DAVID R. PARSONS
Media Officer,
International Christian Embassy,
Jerusalem.

IMPORTANT DIFFERENCE

Sir, - In his otherwise excellent article "Full circle" (January 14), Uri Dan forgot to point to a very important difference in the situation in French-ruled Algeria and Israel. Algeria was a French colony whereas Israel is the homeland of the Jewish people who lived there thousands of years before the

arrival of the Arabs in the 7th century CE. The large majority of them were temporarily evicted and forced into dispersion by the Romans almost 2000 years ago.

R. WILLERS

Middlesex, England.

'AERO'-DYNAMIC

Sir, - I was not surprised to read that the Hebrew Language Academy has decided to call the euro the "aero" (News in Brief, January 12). Do they not yet understand that the agreed, basic language of communication on this planet is English? But what else could be expected from an ivory-towered academic body that has brought hundreds of thousands of guffaws to the throats of every tourist who visits here by changing all the transliterated "k" sounds into "q's"?

RUTH BROCH

Kiryat Ata

REPULSIVE PICTURE

Sir, - In The Jerusalem Post of December 30, you showed a color photo of a bull with blood streaming out of his wounds. Jews are taught to respect life and displays of animals, tortured to death for a money-making spectator "sport" should be - and I feel sure for the great majority amongst us are - repulsive.

MARCEL FREY

Ramat Aviv.

FROM OUR ARCHIVES

65 years ago: On January 24, 1934, The Palestine Post reported that 14 Revisionist youths, charged with an illegal demonstration protesting the government's immigration policy, were found guilty and sentenced to from one to six months' imprisonment.

50 years ago: On January 24, 1949, The Palestine Post reported that little progress had been made so far towards the Israeli-Egyptian reconciliation.

25 years ago: On January 24, 1974, The Jerusalem Post reported that Premier Golda Meir had told

the Knesset that the disengagement-of-forces agreement with Egypt was the only alternative to the resumption of fighting. The Likud leader, Menachem Begin, termed it "a unilateral withdrawal during a period of war."

Alexander Zvielli

The art of Zen and profit

China's ancient Shaolin Temple, known to millions in the West from the martial arts movies, is less like a religious sanctuary and more like a Kung Fu carnival, writes Frank Langfitt

Please wait, an assistant explains, the monk Shi Yongdi is parking the car. Shi, a ranking monk at the famous Shaolin Temple in the hills of central China, arrives in a ski jacket, blue turtle-neck sweater and denim vest. In the midst of his recitation of the temple's 1,500-year-old history, his cell phone rings.

Shaolin Temple is the wellspring of Zen Buddhism and home to the renowned "fighting monks" who inspired the 1970s TV show "Kung Fu." Today the ancient religious site and surrounding village seem less a spiritual oasis than a kung fu carnival.

Included in the temple's \$5 entry ticket is "admission" to a nearby amusement-park stimulation ride which jerks patrons about as they watch footage of a roller coaster, bumper cars, and white-water rafting. Inside the temple, ceramic monk figurines holding daggers sell for \$6. The cashier's desk at the restaurant doubles as a Buddhist shrine complete with incense urn, glass donation box, and two kneelers.

"What I see here is not what I thought I would see in Shaolin," says Gert-Jan van Kanel, a 19-year-old Swiss Buddhist who studies Chinese kick boxing at a nearby private martial-arts school with some 5,000 other students. "It's too much for the tourists."

Shaolin's dual identity as Buddhist holy place and money machine says much about the economic pragmatism that rules China today - and also about the romantic images some foreigners still hold about a nation whose mystery continues to slip away.

For centuries, outsiders saw the Middle Kingdom as an exotic, inscrutable land of silk, tea, concubines, and emperors. Today, much of what has made China distinctive - both good and bad - is being swallowed up in the frenetic drive toward modernization, Westernization, and wealth.

The Shaolin temple owes its fame less to history - the monks are said to have rescued a Tang Dynasty prince from rebels in 621 CE and helped save the empire - than to a 1980 Hong Kong chop-socky movie of the same name that inspired a generation of Chinese martial artists.

Students come to Shaolin from all over the world. Those hoping to find monks like "Kung Fu's" fictional "Kwai Chang Caine," who traversed the American West righting wrongs with his fists and feet, are in for disappointment.

Shi has an office inside the temple, a large complex of pavilions and courtyards that is home to more than 70 monks and sits at the foot of Song Mountain in Henan Province. A warlord burned the temple nearly to the ground in 1928, and Red Guards shut it down during the Cultural Revolution (1966-1976).

Today, workers walk along the tile rooftops brushing away leaves and keeping up the grounds. Shi, 34, oversees a school of



The centuries-old Shaolin Temple with its 'fighting monks'. Now popular tourism is taking over.

(Baltimore Sun)

more than 400 students on the other side of the valley. When not practicing martial arts, the students study Chinese, math or a foreign language, but not Buddhism.

A financier from coastal Fujian Province has invested \$600,000 to build a new facility. Each room will have a telephone and a television, says the 27-year-old business manager, Liu Tongliang. He adds that some students from poor families can study tuition-free.

Shi's school is one of more than 20 that line the road leading to the temple. On "fright" winter days, thousands of Chinese youths in sweat suits crowd brick courtyards and terraced hillsides to practice martial arts.

Periodically yelling in unison, the students stand in human grids and train with aluminum swords, pikes, and bare hands. During class, they kick, spin, swivel, and punch the air with their fists.

Students are drawn to the area around the temple by the famous film and popular kung fu novels that celebrate Shaolin. Many study for years in hopes of earning a college scholarship that will lift them out of rural poverty.

As a child, Pan Zhiqiang marveled at movies in which monks jumped so high that they appeared

to fly. But kung fu - let alone the leaps - is "much harder than it looks in the movies," says the 19-year-old.

Pan, who says he studies martial arts to preserve Chinese culture, plans to return home to South China's Guizhou Province to perhaps work as a security guard. Four years of room, board, and

Those hoping to find monks like Kwai Chang Caine, who traversed the West righting wrongs with his fists and feet, are in for a disappointment

tuition will cost more than \$3,600 - a huge sum by rural Chinese standards.

"My parents think it's a waste of time, money, and energy," Pan says. But "I want to learn more

before I work."

A myth states that nearly 15 centuries ago, an Indian monk named Bodhidharma came to Shaolin and began teaching a school of Buddhism that became known as Zen. Depending on the legend, the monks either developed their unique style of martial arts to unwind after hours of monotonous meditation or to fend off robbers.

Over time, they developed remarkable - or in some cases seemingly remarkable - feats that appear more akin to magic than combat. Books on Shaolin-style martial arts feature photos of people standing on their heads without using their hands and running along the sides of walls in apparent defiance of gravity.

THERE are also some awesome spectacles to take in at the site.

In a display of "iron-crotch" kung fu, a man is pictured suspending a huge stone from his testicles with the aid of a rope. The goal, apparently, is to accustom one's crotch to excruciating pain and therefore make it less vulnerable to attack.

Public performances are less winsome and more winsome.

One recent afternoon at a private school near the temple, tourists crowded around a shirtless student with a shaved head and tried to

remove a bowl that seemed glued to his stomach. The visitors snapped photos and laughed: No one could pull it off.

Shaolin's mix of Eastern religion and martial arts has proved profitable in the West. In recent years, the monks have appeared at the music festival, Lollapalooza, and on *The Tonight Show* with Jay Leno and *Live with Regis and Kathie Lee*.

Given Shaolin's worldly past, perhaps its entrepreneurial present is understandable. A large landholder in earlier times, the temple provoked rebellion by heavily taxing peasants. The monks responded by bearing them up.

Today, more than a million people visit the temple annually, says monk Shi. They bring money for trinkets, souvenirs, and donations.

After placing his cell phone back in his pocket, Shi explains that he must attend to business and bids his guests farewell.

"Come visit our poor life again," he says.

(The Baltimore Sun)

Meir Ronnen's Auctions column will return next month.

Olive research oils cooperation



By Judy Siegel-Itzkovich

Israelis and Palestinians haven't exactly been waving an olive branch at each other, but at least Hebrew University and Al Quds University researchers are working together to improve the yield of olive trees in both this country and the Palestinian autonomous areas.

The researchers - Prof. Ben-Ami Bravdo and Shimon Lavie of the HU's faculty of agricultural, food, and environmental quality sciences in Rehovot, and a team headed by Prof. Hassan Dweik of Al Quds University in eastern Jerusalem - aim to increase the relatively low yield of fruit from olive trees.

The relatively small production of olives is due mainly to reliance on traditional, low-tech methods that have been used for centuries in the area.

The joint team have found that through the use of drip irrigation and fertilizers, it's possible not only to increase the yield per tree, but also to obtain a higher quality oil than has been achieved so far.

The Palestinians carried out their research on olive groves in the area of Abu Dis near Jerusalem, while the Israelis have been experimenting with trees in a grove in the area of the Deir Rafat Monastery near Kibbutz Tzora.

Laboratory tests of the fruit, the oil, and the leaves of the experimental trees were evaluated at the HU faculty in Rehovot, and special testing techniques were designed for this purpose.

The research - supported by Belgian government funds - is continuing, with attempts to examine whether recycled waste water can be used to irrigate the experimental olive groves, using a drip irrigation system to be installed in two of them.

THE TORTOISE & THE HARE

Early humans switched to "fast food" when their slow prey ran out, according to studies of the remains of small animals, found at archaeological sites here and in Italy, conducted by a University of Arizona researcher. Archaeologist Mary Steiner said she believed early humans did not start out as fleet hunters, but may have been forced to switch to "fast food" such as hares when they ate up all of the easier-to-catch prey such as tortoises.

The journal *Science* reports on her work, which supports the idea that early humans were at first found in small, roaming groups that had to work increasingly hard at getting food as populations grew.

Steiner wrote that she was surprised to find that 52 percent of the animal remains in the early Middle Paleolithic layers of the Hayonim Cave were of shellfish, large lizards, tortoises and ostrich eggs.

Steiner said the findings show people relied very heavily on smaller game. "The glory of spear-chucking and all that aside, this was a very important part of people's lives," she told Reuters. Site after site reveals that at first, people ate easy pickings such as molluscs and tortoises. But such creatures mature slowly and are easily wiped out.

"In tortoises, it can take on average up to 10 years before they are even old enough to lay eggs. If you and your social group come into a valley and take all the tortoises you can find, it would take years before

you could feasibly come back to that valley and get the same type of yield," she said.

So in the early days of modern humans, 200,000 to about 50,000 years ago, people would have had to live in small, mobile bands.

"But around 44,000 years ago, we begin to see this relationship as no longer sustainable, and people begin to add what we call lower-ranked prey to their diet," Steiner said, adding that early inhabitants of what are now Israel and Italy also hunted "big game" such as red deer and gazelles. Nevertheless, they probably relied heavily upon plant food.

Evidence from the smaller animals gives the best clues about populations, she said, not the least because very little of the plant food remains.

APATHY TO Y2K

Sixty-five percent of all small- and medium-sized businesses in Israel are unprepared for the 2000 computer bug, according to a survey by the Geocartography Institute. The pollsters queried 300 such companies, asking them about their software.

Although only 36% said they weren't ready for the Y2K bug, an examination of their software found that many of those who thought they were prepared were not. Among the program versions that won't be able to cope with the four digits of the new millennium are Hashavshevet 6.5, used for accounting, and this was commonly in use.

Experts predict that already in the second quarter of this year, major problems resulting from computer glitches will begin to appear because of postdated checks and loans marked with a date in the year 2000. Until then, many businessmen will just hope that it won't happen to them and continue to believe that only large enterprises are at risk.

TINY SONY

What is claimed to be the "smallest video camera in the world" is now being imported by Ispar to Israel. Sony's DCR-PC1E model fits in the palm of the hand, and is only 12-centimeters high, 5 cms. wide, and 9 cms. thick. But you don't get miniaturization free - it costs NIS 16,000.

The camera has a 2.5-inch screen, a high-quality color sensor that produces 800,000 pixels, and digital zoom X 120 and an optical zoom X 10. It can also record still photos and compress 1.5 times the amount of available time in one tape without any reduction in quality. There is also a remote control, and the images can be transferred digitally to a personal computer.

PLASTIC RUNABOUT

Instead of fender-bender accidents, the cars of the future - at least in the Third World - are apparently likely to crunch, crack or bounce in an accident. Plastic cars that are lightweight, fully recyclable, cheap to run and extremely fuel efficient are likely to be the vehicles for the developing world. Chrysler has developed its "composite concept vehicle," with body panels made entirely from plastic moulding, for this purpose.

Chrysler says it has designed its CCV to sell especially well in emerging countries. Thanks to reduced manufacturing costs, the vehicle will sell for about \$6,000.

Its development was made possible due to new polymers from companies, including Ticona, a division of Hoechst, and new moulding technologies that allow large sections, such as car body panels, to be formed without bending or warping. Other plastic cars for the higher end of the market are also under development, including the Chrysler Dodge ESX2 and Chrysler Plymouth Pronto Spyder.

Are the locusts heading this way?

Earthly Concerns



By D'vora Ben Shaul

There is something sonorously biblical about a plague of locusts, and according to the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) we may be in for exactly that.

According to the entomologists who monitor and try to control locust outbreaks and migrations, military activity in parts of Africa has prevented teams from gaining access to several known breeding sites of the desert locust, or *Schistocerca gregaria*, which has been responsible for the defoliation of vast areas of Africa and Asia.

The locust depends on warm, moist soil conditions to propagate since the female, after mating, deposits up to five pods - each with some 120 fertilized eggs - in the soil. When the young locusts hatch, they are large-headed and virtually transparent. They immediately begin to devour surrounding foliage, growing and passing through five or more molts, extending their range with each molt. Once adult, the locusts develop wings and take to flight - settling down wherever there is food, be it natural forestation or planted crops.

Clouds of locusts can be so large and dense that they can actually block out sunlight over entire districts for several hours. Locust attacks of this size caused severe damage here in the '20s and '30s. After DDT and organic phosphate-

based pesticides were introduced along with the controlled monitoring of known breeding grounds, the damage caused by locusts was drastically reduced. In most cases, workers were able to locate the nesting grounds and eradicate young locusts as they emerged from the egg, destroying many millions of the potential ravagers.

But FAO entomologists fear that locusts may still be breeding in large numbers along the disputed Egyptian-Sudanese border, in some areas of Somalia and in remote districts of Mauritania - all areas where decentralized military activity prevents FAO teams from working.

According to the experts, once the swarms of locusts take flight there will be no way to stop them except by direct aerial confrontation. Crop-dusting planes fly into the swarms and spray them with a lethal insecticide. This saves the crops but the environmental damage accompanying the operation is no less serious.

In such cases tons of poisoned insects fall to earth or into the sea where birds, fish and small land mammals are destroyed in vast numbers. In some cases, the mass destruction of birds and bats can cause an imbalance that leads to massive overpopulation by other harmful insects that were previously held in check by their natural enemies.

For the fifth successive year now the United Nations is actively attempting to reach some sort of agreement with the warring factions in the suspect areas. Unfortunately this is not a simple matter, since activity in some areas demands the cooperation of as many as a dozen armed groups. The groups are often hostile to each other and do not routinely communicate with one another.

But unless some sort of accommodation is reached, Africa and parts of the Middle East may once again face the "locust-eaten years."



Locusts: A potential problem of biblical proportions.

(Camera Press)

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NEWS

of the muse

Top Canadian tenor to make local debut

Ben Heppner, one of the leading heroic tenors in the world today, will make his Israeli debut at the Mann Auditorium with the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra under Kurt Masur on February 12. Heppner, who sings regularly in all the great opera houses worldwide, will sing a program of works by Richard Strauss, Puccini and Verdi.

Michael Aizenstadt

Pick from a musical basket

The Levinsky Music College in Tel Aviv opens its third season of concerts featuring a variety of styles and ensembles ranging from the classical to ethnic, and from early music to contemporary. The concerts are free to the public and the series opens January 31.

Michael Aizenstadt

Belly laughs coming our way

Ray Cooney's monster hit *Run for Your Wife* is coming here for a local tour from February 17 to 28. The actors are from one of the original West End casts of this daffy farce which ran in London for nine years (3,600 performances), and has been running here, in an equally successful Hebrew version, since last October.

The story concerns one John Smith who leads a perfectly blissful married life with two wives, neither of whom knows about the other. His idyll ends abruptly when a chance accident lands him in the hospital.

The play has been translated into some 15 languages, including Thai and Finnish. Cooney and Leslie Lawton, who plays John, have both received Olivier awards for their subsequent productions with the Theatre of Comedy Company founded as a direct result of *Run*. A recent UK poll counted *Run for Your Wife* among the century's 100 most successful plays. The show will be in Tel Aviv, Haifa, Jerusalem, Kfar Sava and Rehovot.

Helen Kuyt

Star TV will broadcast the Oscars

Rupert Murdoch's Hong Kong-based Star TV has won the exclusive right to broadcast the 1999 Academy Awards in Southeast Asia. Star plans to start its Oscar coverage with the nominations due to be announced on February 9. The ceremony itself is in Los Angeles on March 21.

Helen Kuyt

'Diva' composer to be honored

"Diva" composer Zvika Piki will be honored with a special award at ACUM's annual Golden Feather awards to be held at the Tel Aviv Cinerama on Wednesday, Dana International won the 1998 Eurovision contest with "Diva," and the record has sold very well worldwide.

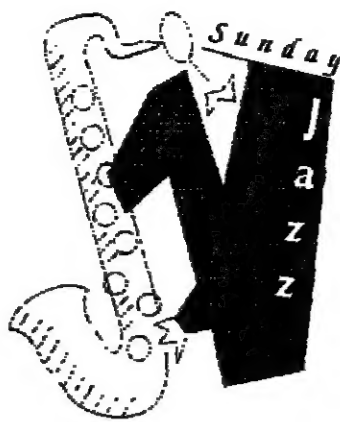
Helen Kuyt

'A Family Affair' returns to the Cameri

The Cameri Theater is reviving Edna Hertz's 1996 award-winning family drama, *Sipur Mishpaha* ("A Family Affair"), which follows the fortunes of a German Jewish family from Heidelberg in 1935 to Israel in the 1970s. The play has represented Israel at various festivals in Germany, including Heidelberg. Regular performances start in March, although there are two performances in February starting February 6.

Helen Kuyt

New wine in the blues bottle



By David Isaacson

The blues is best played by old, weathered black guys. Or so you might think on hearing three new releases from Polygram's French subsidiary Gitanes.

Indeed, if bluesmen had to call it a day at 65, nobody would have heard of Pinetop Perkins. Having

SWEET BLACK ANGEL

Pinetop Perkins (Helicon)

SO GOES LOVE

Charles Brown (Helicon)

PREACHER AND THE PRESIDENT

Joe Louis Walker (Helicon)

spent years as a sideman to the likes of Muddy Waters and Sonny Boy Williamson, the now 84-year-old native of Belzoni, Mississippi, only started to tour and record under his own name in the 1980s. On *Sweet Black Angel*, the pianist-singer offers a timely reminder of the blues's simple beauty.

Perkins plays with the light touch and barrelhouse style of Memphis Slim and, in a voice reminiscent of the whispery Jimmy ("Hush, Hush") Reed, he sounds like he's been smoking 60 Marlboros a day since the Great Depression. *Sweet Black Angel* is raw, hardcore blues from the Deep South: no over-amplified electric guitars or wailing harmonicas, just a four-piece band, sometimes augmented by saxes, and fine production values.

The blues doesn't lend itself to orderly categorization. The second

track is listed as both "What's the Matter with You" and "What's the Matter with the Mill" when it is actually the title track on Muddy Waters's *Can't Get No Grindin'*. If the blues all sounds the same anyway, well that's the strength of the genre. And when you have the quality of Perkins and his band, you can get a whole load of Grindin'.

In its depiction of a life full of frustrations, disappointments and betrayals, blues have been accused of indulging in self-pity. As Perkins shows with the touching hope of the title track, the up-beat "View from the Top" and the optimistically resigned "Down the Road I'll Go," that's only half the story. People listen to the blues to cheer them up and to give their day a background, foot-tapping beat. On both counts *Sweet Black Angel* is an unqualified success.

PIANIST and singer Charles Brown personifies the blues. In 1923, when he was a baby, his mother died; five years later his father was killed by a train.

Raised by his grandparents, Brown became a big name in the 1940s with the No. 1 single "Trouble Blues" and eight other chart appearances in 1949 alone. In the 1950s, the likes of Sammy Davis Jr., Ray Charles, Fats Domino and Erta James were delighted just to open for him. Then, for unclear reasons, he was blacklisted by the musicians' union and became involved in a messy lawsuit.

And the advent of rock 'n' roll wasn't exactly a boon to struggling bluesmen. Brown found himself working as a janitor and window washer to make ends meet.

In 1990 he was rediscovered by Bonnie Raitt, and since then his classy, jazz-inflected blues have found a whole new audience.

Only a musician with a lifetime's experience could put out a disc as effortlessly sophisticated and diverse as *So Goes Love*. The opening four-piece "New Orleans Blues," originally recorded by Brown's 1940s band, captures both the spirit and four-four format of the blues without resorting to cliché: "Oh! Oh! What Do You Know About Love?" perfectly utilizes a full brass rhythm section; a "Stormy Monday" duet with tenor



Blues pianist/singer Pinetop Perkins at 84 has no intention of calling it a day.

saxman Clifford Solomon pours new wine into the bottle. Bassist Ruth Davies is especially impressive in laying down the beat and occasionally rising above the parapet with an unexpected chord. Brown's renditions of the standards "Sometimes I Feel Like a Motherless Child" and "Ain't No Use" are so melancholy he could be Billie Holiday's brother.

GUITARIST Joe Louis Walker, a mere sapling at 30, has been

described by *Downbeat* as "arguably the most complete bluesman on the current scene." *Preacher and the President*, produced by the ubiquitous Steve Cropper, isn't nearly as bluesy as *Sweet Black Angel* or *So Goes Love* but is rather straight-ahead r&b with the odd twist of gospel and soul.

Beyond the title track's easy cynicism - "Now the preacher and the president / Tryin' to find where the money went / They built a church

and a big old rocket / And the rest went into their pocket" - Walker tackles the usual r&b subjects: unrequited love, love gone wrong, the quest for something to "make me feel all right" and self-deprecation.

Walker wrote or co-wrote nine of the 10 tracks and he doesn't break any new ground. But if you like old-fashioned, bouncy r&b, without too much intrusive virtuosity, then you'll appreciate *Preacher and the President*.

Greatness gets a sad reminder

Sabra Sounds



By Shai Tsur

It has become fashionable in some sectors of Israeli society to rail long and hard at perceived musical elitism in the country. Certain members of the Mizrahi musical community, as well as proponents of Hebrew rock, sneer at the genre of music which used to be called "Shirai Eretz Yisrael Hayafa" ("Beautiful Land of Israel Songs"). The popular music of the 1950s and '60s, and especially of the IDF singing troupes who dominated the music

HASHIRIM HAYAFIM

Nehama Hendel Hed Arzi

charts of the time, stands accused of marginalizing and discriminating against anything outside its established, Ashkenazi sabra milieu.

With Mizrahi and Israeli rock now the dominant musical forms, these cries of discrimination seem - despite some historical merit - a bit anachronistic. Besides, one only has to look at the case of Nehama Hendel to realize that discrimination did not only affect long-haired rockers and those of Middle Eastern descent.

Hendel was a charter member of the musical aristocracy who came to prominence during the '50s as a vocalist for the Nahal singing troupe, the best known and most respected of the military groups. In the 1960s she gained fame both here and in the United States as part of the duo Ran and Nana. Inspired by the American Folk music wave, Hendel dedicated herself to recording Hebrew folk songs and the works of renowned poets such as Bialik and Tchernichowsky. Her powerful, crystal-clear soprano helped win over a legion of fans.

Towards the end of the decade, however, Hendel changed her name from Nehama to Helena (the result of a newfound faith in an Eastern spiritual movement) and emigrated to Germany with her German gentile husband. The Israeli public and press saw this as



The late Nehama Hendel in her glory days.

ularity plummeted.

Over the next three decades, Hendel moved from Germany to Australia, with occasional visits to Israel, when she would perform. In 1994, she decided to come home and attempted to mount a comeback with new material. To her disappointment, the media and the public took no interest in her. On the eve of last Yom Kippur, she succumbed to a long-standing heart condition, bitter and alone.

Hendel's recently released collection, *Hashirim Hayafim* ("The Beautiful Songs"), trades on the same nostalgia wave that she tried to avoid in her last years of life. Despite this, the two-CD set serves as a sad reminder that this woman, who had been almost entirely forgotten by Israeli audiences, ranks as one of the greatest singers this country has ever produced.

The songs here span much of Hendel's career, starting with the early material that is made up of the sitting-around-the-campfire songs that so irritate the Avihu Medinas of the world. In these tracks, recorded with the Nahal troupe and its civilian successor Bazal Yarok ("Green Onion"), Hendel's voice sounds fresh and a little less controlled than in later tracks.

The control, and the full beauty of her singing, comes shortly

Independents with stars in their eyes besiege Sundance fest

By MICHAEL FLEISMAN

It's a documentary about a gritty subject and almost no one has seen it.

But after a showing at this week's Sundance Film Festival, *American Pimp* could capture a lucrative distribution deal - and its creators are hoping to milk the opportunity for every potential penny.

"We held out showing it to any distributors to put it in a friendly situation for us as far as getting the best price," said Allen Hughes, who has teamed with his brother to make the film as well as *Menace II Society* and *Dead Presidents*. "Even though we've gotten great offers, you don't know how great they are until you get them all in one room."

Sundance, held each year in Utah, is the US's top showcase for independent films. Overrun by Hollywood players, entertainment reporters and publicists, it's a festival where buzz leads to more buzz, which leads to more hype, which leads to film studios paying millions of dollars for films - something they may or may not regret in the morning.

Last year, for instance, Miramax spent a staggering \$6 million for *Next Step, Wonderland*, which grossed only \$3.4 million in North American theaters.

But for every bust, there are deals like the reported \$1 million spent last year by Artisan Entertainment for *Pi*, which grossed \$3.2 million, making it one of the year's most profitable independent films.

With such potential for success, it's no wonder the festival was inundated with entries. A record 840 feature films were submitted for the 16 slots in the highly coveted dramatic competition. Others were chosen for exhibition outside the competition. The festival also includes documentaries, foreign films and shorts.

At this movie marketplace, films that have no business going for so much money end up going for big bucks, all in the frenzied hope of finding that next *Shine* or *sex, lies and videotape* or striking a multi-picture deal with the next Quentin Tarantino.

While the festival provides a major boost to fledgling film producers, it can also mark the birth - or rebirth - of a performer's career.

A year ago, Ally Sheedy was considered by many to be a has-

been actress of the '80s "Brat Pack." But after Sundance critics heaped praise on her daring performance as a drug addict in *High Art*, her star was back on the rise. Now she's a contender for an Oscar nomination.

"I'd have to say that Sundance has played a major role in my life," Sheedy said. "What's the last year been like? Dumbfounded, blindsided and flabbergasted are words that seem appropriate."

SUNDANCE was essentially born in 1985, when Robert Redford's Sundance Institute, which fosters independent filmmaking, took the reins of what was then called the US Film Festival. It adopted the Sundance name in 1991.

It has gotten so big that one festival isn't enough anymore.

The alternative Slamdance, now in its fifth year, selected 14 features out of 1,716 entries. When it started, only 43 films were entered. There are still other alternative film festivals.

But the centerpiece is Sundance. It started last Thursday in Salt Lake City with the premiere of Robert Altman's *Cooking with Socrates*, then moves to the nearby ski resort of Park City through January 31. It will feature 114 films, including 69 premieres.

Everyone expects film producers to have their checkbooks ready. Although *Wonderland* fizzled, Miramax has scored with numerous independent films picked up at Sundance and other festivals.

"Miramax is the kind of company, when we see something we love, we will probably be the most aggressive and passionate company on the block," said acquisitions executive Amy Israel.

Sheedy will be in Park City to help promote another movie generating early excitement, *Sugar Town*, a story of Hollywood hustling and "double-dealing," with Sheedy as a production designer and Rosanna Arquette as an actress.

With *Sugar Town* and many other films tantalizingly unknown, the anticipation is building. So is the stress.

"We've not allowed anybody to see the film," said Tim Roth, who directed the family drama *The War Zone*, which acquisitions people are watching carefully.

"I see [the screening] as very nerve-racking. A lot of the crew is coming out. Financiers will be there. If it goes wrong, I can just sort of go and hide." (AP)

surgery d

Health Scan



July Siegel-Rosenbaum

Gliding, not stumbling, into old age

Israel's society is unprepared for the explosive consequences of mass aging – but one specialist is trying to arouse awareness of the looming 'geriatric boom catastrophe,' Judy Siegel-Itzkovich reports

Nobody wants to grow old, but it's an attractive future... considering the alternative. With the aging of Israel's population – and with average lifespans nearing 80 – the authorities should be thinking of ways to prepare the middle-aged for old age by ensuring that they go into it as healthy as possible.

Yet with the low priority the health authorities have accorded preventive medicine, it's only a clear society will not be prepared to face the "geriatric boom catastrophe" of the 21st century.

Fortunately, at least one person has not only been thinking about the problem, but has tried to arouse public consciousness.

Dr. Doron Garfinkel, an internal medicine specialist (on a year's leave from Holon's Wolfson Hospital) and director of home care for the Maccabi health fund's Dan region, has founded the apolitical Society for the Inhibition of Age-Related Processes.

Working out of his living room and at his own expense, Garfinkel captured the imagination of some 40 fellow physicians and academics in a variety of fields, leading to the establishment of the society three years ago.

Now, with an Israeli scientific council of top-name professionals and an international advisory body, the society will hold its first conference on February 2 at the Dan Tel Aviv Hotel, with First Lady Reuma Wetzman, welcoming the expected audience of thousands.

(Tickets are NIS 100 to cover expenses, but there will be no fundraising at the event.)

"This isn't a one-man show," Garfinkel says. "Many people in a variety of fields from medicine to social work and psychology have begun to show an interest."

In ancient Rome, half the population

like arthritis, Alzheimer's, Parkinson's, cardiovascular disorders and complications of diabetes.

The cost of treating disabilities in elderly Americans has more than doubled in real terms in three decades," Garfinkel explains, going on to observe that "it's hard to say what 'old' is."

"If you look at Israeli families today, you can often see four generations alive at once. We have to prepare for the medical, economic and social consequences of this phenomenon. Today you see elderly patients lying in the corridors of hospital internal medicine departments; tomorrow, if we do nothing, we'll see them waiting outside in the street."

Fire-extinguishing, Garfinkel notes, is not the society's mission. "We want to promote the prevention, or at least delay, of diseases affecting the elderly. Currently nearly all public funds for preventive medicine are spent on immunizing infants."

skills and the means for disseminating information to the public, as well as offering tests, treatments and counselling.

"If a person has a stroke, for example, we want to help reduce his or her physical disability and dependence on family. The scientific council members' professional knowledge will be used to assess the efficacy and/or dangers of treatments promoted in the media as supposedly able to slow the aging process."

The society is also looking for retired volunteers, including English speakers, who have the skills to promote its activities. In addition to this down-to-earth work, the society (at 13 Haben Harishon Street, 75240 Rishon LeZion) also plans to promote at least three major pieces of Israeli research that would contribute to understanding the aging process and preventing or inhibiting it.

The budget, says Garfinkel, will range from \$50,000 to \$200,000 per project and deal with physical activity, nutrition, vitamin and mineral supplements, preventive medicine and the social aspects of inhibiting aging.

In Chinese tradition, doctors get paid only as long as their patients stay healthy; if a person becomes sick, the doctor sees no money.

A good family physician or general practitioner should be able to help a patient cope with aging, Garfinkel says, "but there are many other needs these professionals are not trained to address, such as avoiding loneliness and getting out into society as an active participant. This is why there is a need for our multidisciplinary center."

Prof. Lydia Avivi of the genetics department of Tel Aviv University was approached by Garfinkel not long ago about the society and immediately agreed to join the scientific council. "The first thing I thought was: 'Why didn't I think of it before?'" she recalls. "I view him as another Columbus."

Avivi bemoans the fact that "old people are shunted out of sight so as not to disturb the consciences of younger people. There is widespread apathy in the face of these

problems. As a geneticist, I'm interested in the aging process, which affects everyone; it makes explaining genetic processes easier."

"Aging is traumatic, for a person and his family, but it can be delayed and eased – and this will have great economic benefit."

ALTHOUGH there is no known "fountain of youth," a number of things could slow the aging process and reduce the incidence of disease, says Dr. Mordechai Halperin, gynecologist, male fertility expert, rabbi and head of the Schlesinger Institute for Jewish Medical Ethics at Shaare Zedek Hospital in Jerusalem.

"Seventeen years ago, Shaare Zedek internal medicine specialist Prof. Abraham Abraham found that giving chromium salts to rabbits significantly reduced the amount of plaques in their coronary arteries; this fat increases the risk of heart attacks. But since pharmaceutical companies had nothing to gain from a non-patentable mineral, he couldn't get funding to test his model clinically to see if it was safe and effective for humans," Halperin recalls.

"Eating fish and taking vitamin E can also slow aging and reduce morbidity, but you have to educate the public. That's why I was so excited when Dr. Garfinkel told me about his society."

Prof. Amos Korczyn, head of the neurology department at Tel Aviv's Ichilov Hospital and head of the neurology department at TAU's Sackler Medical School, says the society must function as a lobby.

"The health funds, for example, don't look ahead at medical problems in the future. They're busy with today. But that's

part of the problem," says Korczyn, a renowned expert in Alzheimer's disease and stroke who has joined the society's scientific council. "It's foolish to think Israel's society is immune to this problem."

"The aging of the population is a ticking time bomb," says Prof. Zvi Adar, a health systems expert in TAU's management faculty.

"I don't know very much about the health aspects, but I am familiar with the social, economic and insurance elements of the problem. There will be fewer people working and feeding the economy, since people will work for only about half their lives – excluding childhood and after retirement. This, along with the drying up of sources of younger immigrants, will have major economic implications. If you can reduce the number of disabled people who need care in nursing facilities, you will not only be improving their quality of life and easing the burden on their children, you will also be saving the economy a lot of money."



"Chronological age isn't all-important. You need rather to look at an individual's quality of life and amount of disability. The official retirement age of 65, set by Bismark in Germany, has been widely accepted worldwide, even though many people of that age are perfectly capable of working or otherwise contributing to society."

The 49-year-old physician has been discussing these issues for a decade. In fact, he coined the term "geriatric boom catastrophe" at a conference in Australia.

"At first, people said I was exaggerating. Now they say, 'What do you mean about the crisis being in the future? It's already here.'"

ASIDE from next week's gathering, the society aims to hold at least three scientific conferences by 2001. In them members of the scientific council, academics and researchers will meet with policymakers, public figures and other agents of change.

Garfinkel wants a society newsletter to be issued every three months to report on developments in slowing age-related processes.

"Successful aging saves society money as fewer resources are needed for old age homes and medical treatments," he says. "We also hope to set up at least one multidisciplinary center by 2001 that will coordinate knowhow and knowledge,

address, such as avoiding loneliness and getting out into society as an active participant. This is why there is a need for our multidisciplinary center."

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Dancing the years away (left): Chronology isn't the whole story – quality of life and ability to function are essential factors in easier aging. Grandad power (above): Martial arts help residents of a sheltered housing project for the elderly in Rishon LeZion keep fit.

Surgery done 'through the keyhole'

Health Scan



By Judy Siegel-Itzkovich

Although "keyhole" surgery was barely known to the general public more than a decade ago, half of all gynecological operations performed in Israel today use laparoscopy and hysteroscopy techniques – tiny endoscopes with video cameras and mini-scissors to remove or repair tissue through a small abdominal incision or through the vagina.

Assaf Harofeh Hospital researchers who studied records of 7,000 gynecological operations performed here in 1998 found that half of them were done with "keyhole" methods, according to Dr. Motti Pansky, Dr. Avi Abengil and Prof. Jan Bukovsky of the Tzrifin hospital's obstetrics/gynecology department.

Speaking at a recent conference of the Israel ObGyn Society, held at the Haifa International Convention Center, the gynecologists said this development was welcome, as the advanced surgical technique can minimize the suffering and length of hospitalization of patients, as well as recovery time. For some women, the techniques also eliminate the need for a hysterectomy (removal of the uterus).

Fortunately, the number of complications resulting from the "keyhole" gynecological surgery here was found to be low, meeting accepted standards in the US and other developed countries.

Pansky attributed the increase in use of the techniques to doctors' greater awareness as well as greater public access to medical information, especially via the Internet.

Many women now do a "market survey" before deciding what surgical treatment they should undergo, he said.

"There is no question that a major trend in gynecological surgery over the coming years will be a reduction in radical surgeries and a controlled move to smaller, more effective and economical operations, both as regards patients' suffering and economic costs."



The technique can mean less suffering, less time in hospital, a speedier recovery – and perhaps no need for a hysterectomy.

launched in English a decade ago. The 16-page WDDTY contains serious, updated and non-commercial material on a variety of medical subjects, citing numerous medical journals so readers can look up citations if they wish. It also has a healthy dose of skepticism about what it calls unnecessary medical treatments and medications.

Now a Netanya company, Dekel Publishing, has begun to translate each issue into competent Hebrew while adapting the content to Israeli medical realities and interests.

WDDTY, which appears once every two months, attempts to explain complicated issues to laymen but without reducing the professional level of the material. The introductory subscription price is NIS 120 for three issues over six months. The next issue is due in a few weeks.

WDDTY's first issue (October-November) contains articles on eating disorders, herbal remedies that have been tested according to scientific methods, sensitivity to chemicals, toxemia in pregnant women and whether anti-wrinkle laser treatments are safe.

Lynn McIlagart, the editor of the original version, who wrote an article specially for Israeli readers,

notes that the publication already appears in various additional editions in the US and Europe. Would-be subscribers should call (09) 863-7214, write to the editorial department at 28 Rehov Ha'argaman, POB 8430, Netanya, or send e-mail to jalmos@netvision.net.il.

SPEEDING HAIR GROWTH

Regaine (minoxidil), the only drug recognized by the US Food and Drug Administration and the Health Ministry as a hair restorer, has been found to speed up hair regrowth in cancer patients following chemotherapy.

A recent US study of 22 women who underwent surgery for breast cancer and planned to get supportive chemotherapy were divided into two groups: one group had Regaine solution massaged into their scalps, while the other received a placebo; the treatment continued until four months after they finished chemotherapy.

Those who used the minoxidil were bald for just 86 days, compared to 137 days for the placebo group.

Although baldness is not a matter of life and death, regaining their hair faster is a great psychological boon to cancer patients.

Shock treatment for overactive hearts



By Judy Siegel-Itzkovich

I am a 70-year-old man, diagnosed some years ago with atrial fibrillation, for which

I take a daily dose of Coumadin. I recently underwent a routine Echo-Doppler test, after which the doctor said my heart was perfectly sound and suggested electric shock treatment, which might put it back into a normal beat.

He asked me what I thought about such treatment. Well, I'm no doctor, but I'm sure that the electric shock might put my heart into a normal beat. The doctor shook his head. Unfortunately, he has left the decision to me, though I am hardly qualified to make it. My "heart conditions" has given me little or

no trouble over the years, and I don't intend to go looking for it. I would welcome your expert's opinion on the matter. A.D. Harshav.

Prof. Mervyn Goldman, head of the cardiology department at Hadassah-University Hospital in Jerusalem's Ein Kerem, replies: Atrial fibrillation is a condition in which your heart beats an extra beat. You're better off if your heart returns to sinus fibrillation, which means the normal beat, as that's what nature intended. The longer you've had defibrillation, the fewer the chances it will return to normal. But if your doctor recommends electric shock treatment, you should go ahead. We do this treatment every day, and it shouldn't cause you any harm. A general anesthetic is given; in effect for only two or three minutes; this is required because the shock is a powerful one, the kind given to resuscitate someone whose heart has stopped. It makes the whole body shake. The success rate of restoring normal rhythm is 60% in such cases. If it doesn't succeed, you won't be any the worse for wear.

The tiny, crucial difference between slender and stout

By ROGER SEGELKEN

Barely measurable amounts of energy, released as body heat, could mean the difference between holding one's waistline or taking on four or five kilos a year, say Cornell University researchers who turned couch-potatoes into exercising athletes.

The culprit is excess dietary protein and fat, particularly from animal-based foods. These appear to tip the delicate energy balance toward adding body fat instead of burning energy through a metabolic process called thermogenesis, says Cornell nutritional biochemist T. Colin Campbell.

His theory of energy balance and obesity, an old one refined by new findings, was developed through studies of diet and disease among rural Chinese and laboratory rats. It could explain why so many attempts at dieting are doomed.

Campbell's proposed solution: Eat a diet low in animal-based fats and proteins and rich in plant-based nutrients and fiber.

"Laboratory rats fed diets comprised of substantially reduced intakes of protein consume more energy, but gain slightly less weight and exhibit increased thermogenesis due both to enhanced metabolic body heat and diet-driven physical activity," said Campbell at a conference on "The Role of Diet and Caloric Intake in Ageing, Obesity and Cancer," in Reston, Virginia.

He also reported that the same rats showed sharply reduced blood cholesterol concentrations and tumor development.

Details of the theory have been published in the *American Journal of Clinical Nutrition* by Campbell and Dr. Janshi Chen of the Chinese Academy of Preventive Medicine's Institute of Nutrition and Food Hygiene.

The Cornell rat studies, in which lab animals ate diets ranging from 5% to 20% protein in the form of casein from cow's milk, found another remarkable result: Rats on low-protein diets voluntarily exercised more. Given a choice of lounging around their cages or climbing on exercise wheels, the low-protein-fed rats spent more time burning calories compared with rats on moderate- and high-protein diets.

That increased exercise, as evidenced by Chinese who ride bicycles instead of driving to work, undoubtedly accounts for most of the expended energy.

A small amount of expended energy, the "missing matter," is at the heart of an apparent dietary paradox: Humans and animals on lower-protein, lower-fat diets consume more calories in the form of carbohydrates, but are less likely to convert the energy to body fat.

Studies at other institutions and at Campbell's Cornell laboratory, where the China Project <http://www.human.cornell.edu/dns/china> project survey of thousands of Chinese families was based, are beginning to pinpoint this missing matter.

Humans and animals on low-protein, low-fat diets burn the energy off through very slight increases in thermogenesis, and release it as body heat instead of turning it into body fat, according to Campbell.

"The difference is so slight and so difficult to measure that we have been missing it – perhaps as little as 50 calories a day in a 2,500-calorie diet – but those unburned calories can add up to about four kilos more a year," Campbell says.

Further research is needed to explain the role of low-protein diets in increased thermogenesis, the biochemists say, suggesting two possible mechanisms for the effect:



Regaining a waistline could take as little as eating 50 calories less of animal protein in a 2,500-calorie-a-day diet.

"There is some evidence it could be due to a small amount of a special tissue called brown adipose tissue, although this tissue is not thought to be as significant in humans as in some animals. In addition, most nutritionists regard animal protein as more 'efficient' than plant protein, and one of the efficiencies might result in converting the ingested energy directly to fat."

Discovery of the missing matter should be good news for the 25 to 34 percent of overweight adults in Western countries who spend billions of dollars a year on weight-loss programs and products, Campbell says.

"Living a long and healthy life in a body that uses food for energetic activities instead of creating more fat calls for long-term commitment to lifestyle changes and not to fat diets."

"Changing and committing to a healthful diet isn't always fast and easy, but it is worth it – both in weight control and in avoiding the diseases of extravagance, such as heart disease and cancer."

Most Americans already consume considerably more protein than the US government's Recommended Dietary Allowance calls for, Campbell observes. (Cornell University News Service)

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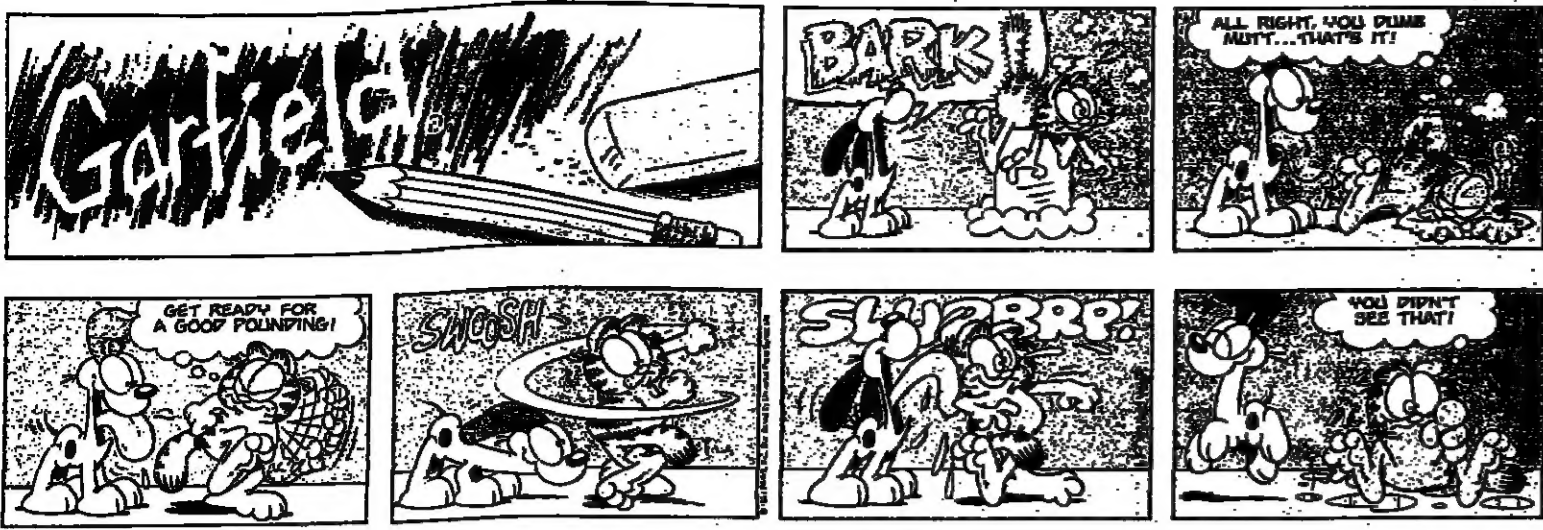
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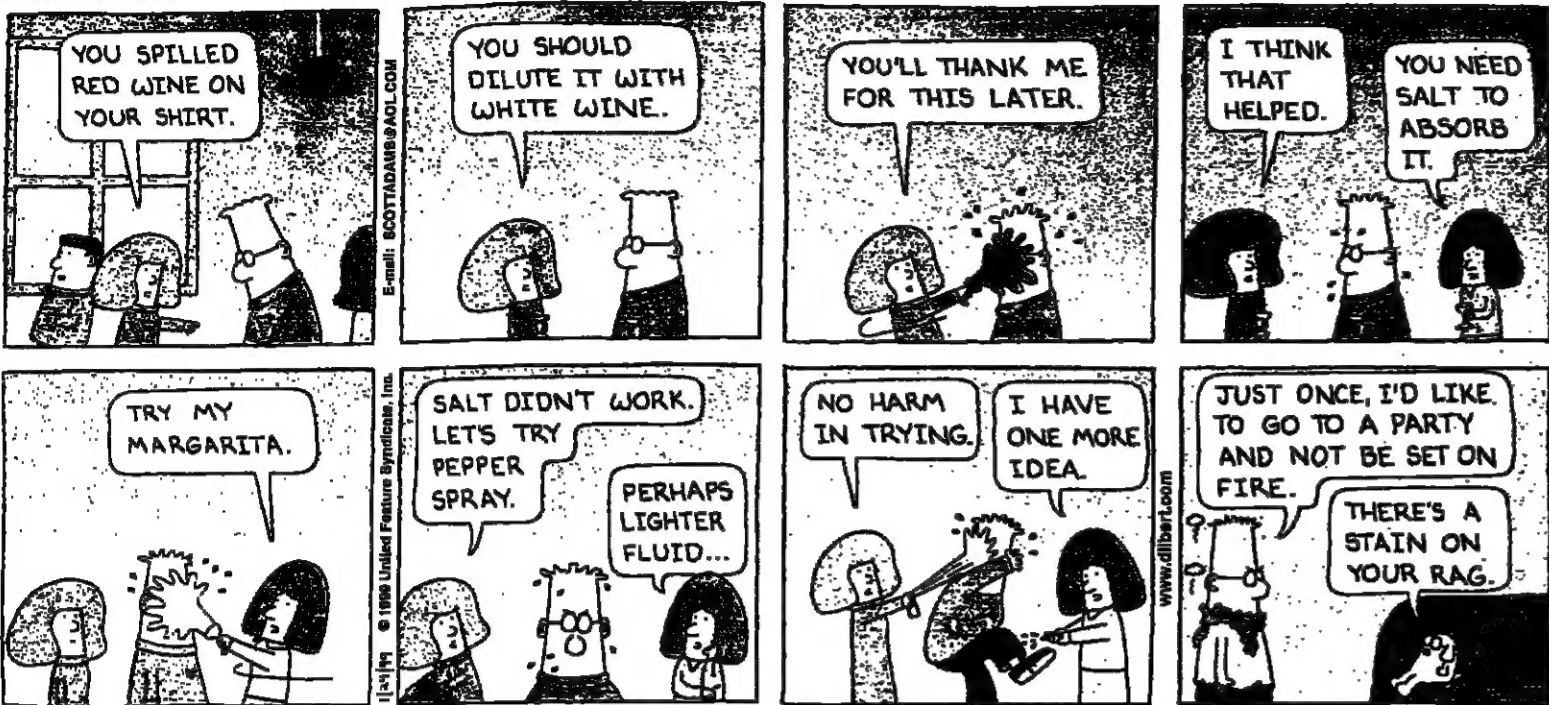
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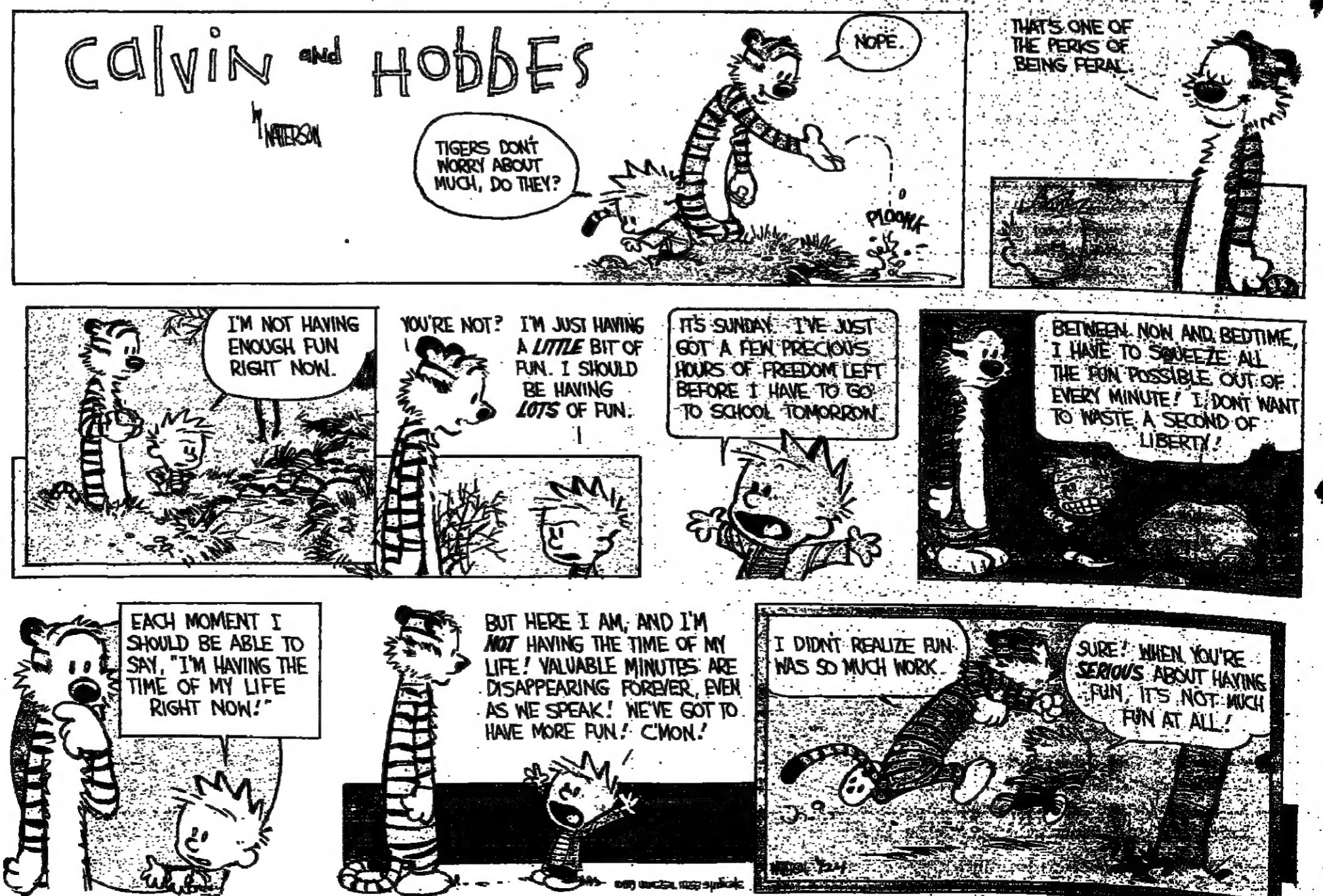
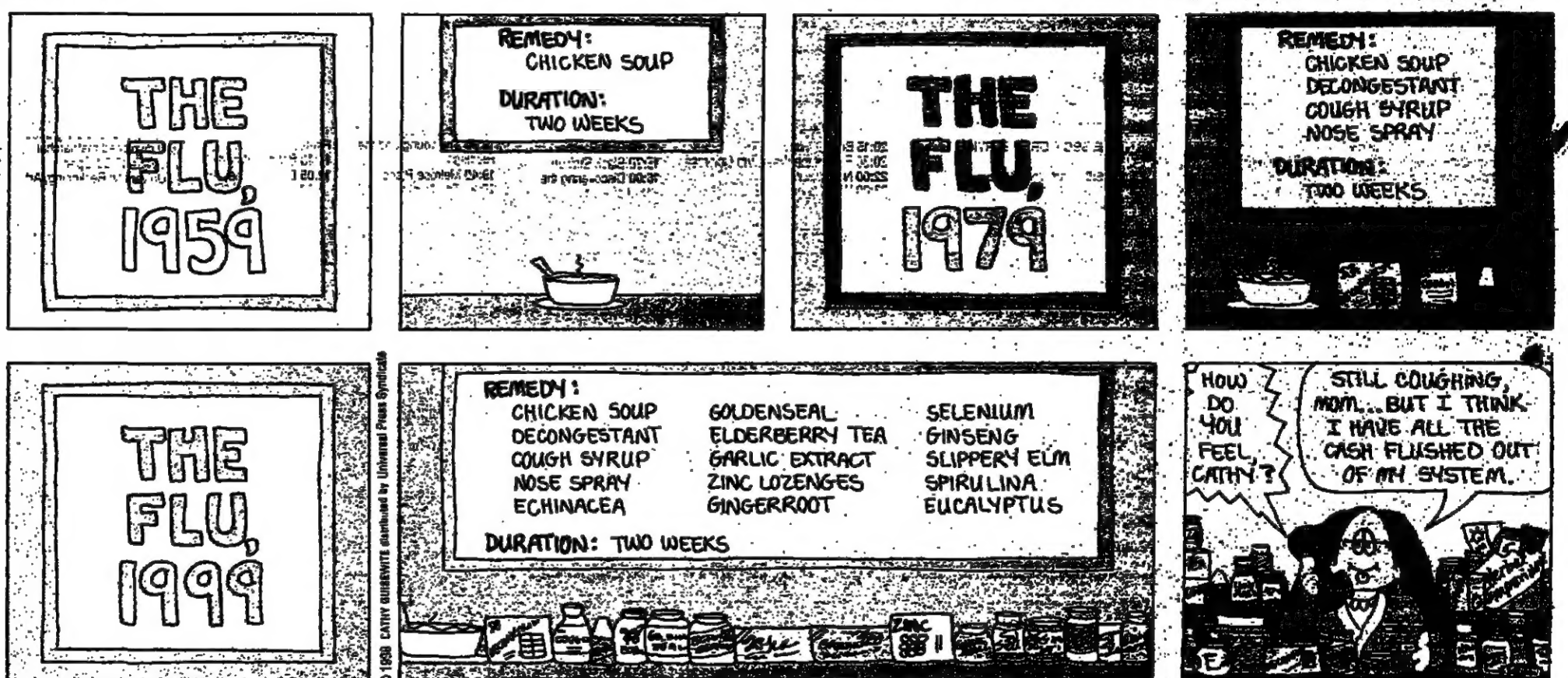
DILBERT

BY SCOTT ADAMS



CATHY

BY CATHY GUISEWITE





NHL All Stars

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Agassi stars

Page 13

Sports Editors: Joe Hoffman & Ori Lewis

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ISRAEL

Katzir 12/3

Tiberias 13/4

Haifa 16/8

Netanya 16/7

Ariel 18/3

Tel Aviv 17/6

Jerusalem 12/3

Dead Sea 20/8

Beersheba 16/6

Israel: Mostly cloudy in the north with a stray shower or two. Partly to mostly sunny in the south. Highs 12-21. Fair and cool tonight. Lows 3-9.

Eilat 21/9

ISRAEL CITIES

Today

High Low/W

City

Ariel 16/18

Beersheba 16/6

Bnei Brak 16/18

Bnei Brak 16/18

Bnei Brak 16/18

Bnei Brak 16/18

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By OSSIAN SHINE

LONDON (Reuters) - Second Division Fulham pulled off a major FA Cup shock yesterday when they sent premier league Aston Villa spinning out of the fourth round with a 2-0 win at Villa Park.

An eighth minute Simon Morgan header, a deflected Steve Hayward shot and some stubborn defending were enough to see the club owned by Harrods tycoon Mohamed Al Fayed and managed by Kevin Keegan into the fifth round for the first time in 24 years.

"That was one of the best days in my football life," smiled Morgan after the match. "We didn't get deflected from what we came here to do and thor-

Results & standings, Page 13

oughly deserved this win."

Fellow goalscorer Hayward added: "They were lucky we didn't win by more goals - when I scored the second we were totally in control."

Fulham knocked out premier league Southampton in the last round and striker Paul Peschisolidi said: "Now we want another premier league club so we can carry on giant-killing."

Elsewhere in the Cup, Leeds smashed Portsmouth 5-1 away to book their fifth round berth while Newcastle buried Bradford 3-0 and Blackburn edged Sunderland 1-0 at home.

Luke Nightingale put Portsmouth ahead against Leeds after 10 minutes but the Division One side could not hold on to the advantage and David O'Leary's premier league side levelled through defender David Weatherall two minutes later from a set-piece.

Leeds punished Portsmouth for having the cheek to take the



A HAPPY MAN - Fulham goal scorer Simon Morgan raises his arms in delight after the final whistle which confirmed Fulham had beaten Aston Villa in their FA Cup fourth round tie at Villa Park yesterday.

lead when Ian Harte spanked in a second goal two minutes later. The premier league side then began to flex their muscles in the second half and Harry Kewell knocked in their third goal after some good work by Jimmy Floyd Hasselbaink down the wing.

Portuguese midfielder Bruno Ribeiro scored Leeds' fourth goal with a deflected shot that left Alan Knight stranded before Clyde Wijnhard made it five.

"We had an under-strength

young side out there today," O'Leary said afterwards. "Really it was the babies looking after the babies so I am especially pleased with the result."

It took a late goal from Derby's Kevin Harper to see off third division Swansea 1-0. The Welsh side had beaten West Ham in the last round but this match proved one hurdle too many.

"There's no shame in losing 1-0 to a top-flight side," Swansea

boss John Hollins said afterwards. "We restricted them to one or two chances and I am very proud of the lads."

Wimbledon and Tottenham drew 1-1 in an all-premier league clash while Leicester went down 3-0 at home to Coventry after goals by Noel Whelan, Paul Telfer and Steve Froggatt.

Newcastle United scored through Dieter Hamann, Alan Shearer and Temuri Ketsbaia to

beat Bradford City 3-0 at home and Sheffield Wednesday saw off Stockport 2-0.

Everton scraped a 1-0 victory over first division Ipswich while it took a 67th minute Keith Gillespie goal for Blackburn to bury a brave Sunderland at Ewood Park.

Blackburn boss Brian Kidd said afterwards: "They played well, showed a lot of class and I feel for them. They are a good side and I hope they get promoted this year."

Mac. Haifa 'keeper Buaron injured in car accident

Zafirrim Holon, Betar Jerusalem reach Toto Cup semi finals

By ORI LEWIS

Maccabi Haifa's second-string goalkeeper, Yehuda Buaron, was seriously injured after he was hit by a car on Thursday night, and as of last night was still unconscious in the intensive care unit at Tel Aviv's Ichilov Hospital.

The burly Buaron suffered severe head and rib-cage injuries after being hit by a passing car as he attempted to cross the Haifa-Tel Aviv highway near his home town of Netanya. He had been dropped off by Haifa coach Daniel Brailowsky and was planning to pick up his own car which he had left parked at a service station near Netanya.

In another tragic event at the weekend, Lior Kabalo, a 14-year-old player with Hapoel Bat Yam's junior team, collapsed and died of heart failure after playing soccer with friends in his neighborhood. He was to have turned out for Bat Yam in a league match yesterday. The funeral will be held today.

In Toto Cup action yesterday, Betar Jerusalem and Zafirrim Holon joined Maccabi Tel Aviv and Hapoel Haifa in the semi-finals of the competition after registering convincing wins.

Betar overwhelmed Maccabi Petah Tikva 3-0 through a goal by Stefan Salloi and two more by Ofer Shitrit, while Holon beat Maccabi Herzliya 2-0, the goals scored by Gyorgy Drasila and Marco Ben-Baruch, who also missed a late penalty.

The semi-finals will be played on Tuesday at the National Stadium, Ramat Gan with Maccabi Tel Aviv, who finished the group stage with a 100 percent record, taking on Holon, followed by Hapoel Haifa v. Betar.

In other matches this weekend, it was Hapoel Be'er Sheva 4, Hapoel Petah Tikva 3; Hapoel Haifa 3, Hapoel Herzliya 2; Maccabi Haifa 3, Ironi Ashdod 0; Bnei Yehuda 0, Maccabi Tel Aviv 1; Hapoel Tel Aviv 2, Ironi Rishon 1 and Maccabi Jaffa 1, Hapoel Kfar Sava 2.

Toto Cup
Total Points: 2,112,211,111,111,222,222
Total Goals: 10, 14, 15, 17, 23, 25, 33

Muralitharan victory joy after throwing despair

ADELAIDE (Reuters) - Despair turned to delight for Sri Lanka off-spinner Muralitharan as he hit the winning run against England after being no-balled for throwing in their triangular series match yesterday.

Sri Lanka snatched a one-wicket win with two deliveries of their 50 overs to spare in the day-night game, making 303 for nine after England scored 302 for three.

Muralitharan was called for throwing by Australian umpire Ross Emerson at square leg, prompting captain Arjuna Ranatunga to lead his team off the field in protest.

Emerson no-balled Muralitharan in his second over, the 18th of the game, with England at 97 for one. Ranatunga and his players, who had walked to the side of the ground, returned to the middle about 12 minutes later after consulting with Sri Lankan cricket officials in Colombo.

Discussions also took place with the match referee Peter van der Merwe and the umpires. Emerson had previously called Muralitharan for throwing during Sri Lanka's tour of Australia in 1995-96, but the slow bowler's action was subsequently cleared by the International Cricket Council (ICC).

In an incident-packed game,

opener Sanath Jayasuriya hit an explosive 51 and Mahela Jayawardene made a superb 120 to spur Sri Lanka to victory.

Jayawardene, a late replacement for injured vice-captain Aravinda de Silva, was named man of the match.

Sri Lanka started shakily, losing Romesh Kaluwitharana (0) and Marvan Atapattu (3) to be eight for two but then regrouped through Jayasuriya, whose 51 came off 36 balls and included six four and two sixes.

Jayasuriya and Hashan Tillakaratne put on 60 for the third wicket and Ranatunga, who was booed onto the field, supported Jayawardene effectively with 41.

Sri Lanka, having paced their run chase perfectly, faltered near the finish. Upul Chandana (25) was eighth out with the total 288 and, in the penultimate over, Roshan Mahanama clipped successive balls from Adam Hogg to fine leg for four but was run out by Neil Fairbrother for 13 at 298.

Five runs were then needed from nine balls, and Sri Lanka's last pair made the most of a poor final over from medium pacer Vince Wells, with Muralitharan scooping the fourth delivery over Hogg to cover for a single to secure victory.

Graeme Hick, who struck 126 not out, and Fairbrother, with an unbeaten 78, had powered England to what looked a match-winning total.

England lead the series standings on eight points from six games while Australia and Sri Lanka, who both have a match in hand, are on four.

Sri Lanka play Australia in Adelaide today.

ENGLAND
N.Knight run out (Muralitharan) 45
A.Stewart c Ranatunga b Vase 39
G.Hick not out 126
N.Hussey c Tillakaratne b Jayasuriya 2
N.Fairbrother not out 78
Extras (b-2 w-4 nb-3) 302
Total (for three wickets, 80 overs) 302
Fall of wickets: 1-64 2-129 3-148
Did not bat: V.Wells, A.Hogg, M.Eaton, R.Coff, D.Gough, A.Murphy
Bowling: Vase 10-0-75 1 (nb-2), Muralitharan 10-0-71 0 (nb-1), Jayawardene 4-0-24 0 (nb-1), Muralitharan 7-0-46 0 (nb-1), Jayasuriya 10-0-41 1, Chandana 10-0-41 0 (nb-1)

SRI LANKA
S.Jayasuriya c Fairbrother b Gough 51
R.Kaluwitharana run out (A.Hogg) 0
M.Aatapattu c Fairbrother b Muralitharan 3
N.Tillakaratne b Coff 28
M.Jayasuriya c Ranatunga b Jayasuriya 41
A.Ranatunga c Wells b Gough 13
C.Vase run out (Hussey) 25
U.Chandana c Fairbrother b Wells 13
R.Mahanama run out (Fairbrother) 2
N.Muralitharan not out 2
V.Wells not out 2
Extras (b-2 w-4) 302
Total (for nine wickets, 48.4 overs) 302
Fall of wickets: 1-3 2-4 3-68 4-137 5-223 6-225 7-288 8-288 9-288
Bowling: Gough 10-1-68 2, Muralitharan 10-0-41 1 (nb-1), Hogg 5-0-45 0, Eaton 10-1-46 0 (nb-2), Coff 10-0-42 1, Wells 4-0-30 3 (nb-1)
Result: Sri Lanka won by one wicket
Man of the match: Mahela Jayawardene

McDyess, Divac and Smith make up their minds, Gugliotta doesn't

NEW YORK (AP) - The signing of Antonio McDyess was expected to unleash a domino effect, but Tom Gugliotta didn't fall into place.

McDyess, the player considered the top free agent on the market, finally made up his mind Friday and signed with the Denver Nuggets despite a last-minute lobbying effort by three members of the Phoenix Suns.

Gugliotta then left Phoenix without signing a contract and headed to Minnesota hoping to meet with Timberwolves owner Glen Taylor. No one was certain what Gugliotta's next move would be, from re-signing with Minnesota to signing with Phoenix to being involved in a sign-and-trade deal that could send him somewhere else.

"We had a lot of positive feedback," Phoenix coach Danny Ainge joked, "but, hey, I had a year of positive feedback from McDyess, too." Also, free agent Wade Davis signed with the Sacramento Kings while Joe Smith agreed to terms with the Timberwolves, and now it looks like the Suns could be the biggest losers of the

post-lockout frenzy if they wind up losing Gugliotta, too.

"I'm very nervous, no question about it," Ainge said.

"We're taking a little bit of a gamble," Rod Strickland remained a no-show Friday as the Washington Wizards started three-a-day workouts.

The point guard and the Wizards remain far apart on a new contract. Strickland and agent David Falk originally demanded \$65 million over five years but reportedly lowered that to \$55 million Thursday. The Wizards have offered about \$30 million over three years.

Washington executive vice president and general manager Wes Unseld said both sides will continue talking.

The trade sending Scottie Pippen to Houston was finally cleared by the league office, allowing the Rockets to then re-sign five of their own free agents.

The pace of player movement stayed steady Friday, with three more trades and dozens of signings.

Atlanta re-signed Christian Laettner and dealt him to Detroit for Scott Pollard and a draft pick.

Chicago re-signed Steve Kerr and traded him to San Antonio for Chuck Person and a conditional first-round pick.

Detroit traded the draft rights to Bonzi

Wells to the Portland Trail Blazers for a future first-round pick.

A few teams, such as Sacramento and Detroit, made all their major moves practically at once, while other teams filled out their training camp rosters or added an extra part here or there.

Smith, who reportedly turned down \$80 million from Golden State last season before he was dealt to Philadelphia, agreed to a one-year deal with Minnesota for \$1.75 million. The deal remained unsigned, however, while Smith waited to see how the Gugliotta situation played out.

Detroit re-signed two of its own free agents, Jerry Stackhouse and Joe Dumars, and added free agents Loy Vaught and Jud Buechler.

Sacramento gave Divac \$62.5 million, welcomed Chris Webber to camp and found a way to re-sign Corliss Williamson.

Divac, one of just five active NBA players with 8,000 career points, 5,000 rebounds, 1,500 assists and 1,000 blocks, said he wants to break a streak of 15 consecutive losing seasons by the Kings - a league record.

The Indiana Pacers re-signed Rik Smits, giving him a contract that will average a reported \$14 million, the Dallas Mavericks signed Suns free agent center Hot Rod Williams and the Milwaukee Bucks signed the last member of the original Charlotte Hornets, Dell Curry.

In other free agent moves, Seattle signed free agent forward Billy Owens, San Antonio signed forwards Mario Elie and Jerome Kersey, the Trail Blazers signed point guard Greg Anthony, Minnesota signed guard Mark Sealy, the Knicks signed forward Kurt Thomas, Vancouver signed center Cherokee Parks and Utah brought back Thurl Bailey.

The sign-and-trade deal sending Luc Longley to Phoenix still had not been cleared by the league office.

In New York, Latrell Sprewell met with commissioner David Stern and was reinstated. He was expected to begin practicing with the Knicks last night.

The Hornets announced that Glen Rice had undergone successful surgery to remove bone chips from his elbow. He will be out 6-8 weeks.

The Miami Heat brought veteran shooting guard Terry Porter into camp, and he immediately found himself a possible starter after it was learned that last season's starter, Voshon Lenard, will be out 8-10 weeks with a stress fracture in his left leg.

Miami got one small piece of good news - word from the league office that Alonzo Mourning will not have to serve the second game of his two-game suspension for fighting with New York's Larry Johnson during last year's playoffs.

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